

April 8, 2012

Issue number: 887

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Lady vows to clear her name in notice dispute

onpage 3



MP's daughter graduates

onpage 19

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Lib Dems must try harder

BY SOPHIE SCOTT

sophie.scott@lutononsunday.co.uk

MORE than half of the town's Liberal Democrat councillors have shown up to less than three quarters of meetings.

A Luton *on Sunday* investigation into councillors' attendances has shown that of the bottom ten - five of them are Lib Dems.

There are only eight in opposition at Luton Borough Council, out of a total of 48 members.

Cllr Roy Davies has the lowest record at 49 per cent, with his wife Cllr Jenny Davies at 65 per cent. On par with her is Cllr Peter Chapman, with Cllr Martin Pantling at 67 per cent. Cllr Diane Moles is at 74 per cent.

Each council representative gets a basic rate of £7,500 for their role, plus any additional expenses for chairing committees.

The figures were gathered from the council's website which lists the meetings each member is on. However, it does not make available attendances for certain boards, the fire or police authorities.

Last week, just hours before the full council meeting, Cllr Pantling took to Twitter to say he 'May stay away' - and did.

Also within the worst performing are Labour councillors Desline Stewart and Andrew Malcolm, at 72 and 73 per cent respectively.

Leader of the Conservatives Michael Garrett has attended 75 per cent of meetings.

By council rules and regulations, any councillor who fails to attend one council or committee meeting in a six month time period automatically bars themselves from the role.

Speaking on behalf of herself and her husband, Cllr Jenny Davies said: "I am a co-opted member on the Citizens Advice Board and I was there twice this week. I would argue that is jolly more useful than some of the obscure committees."



Cllr Roy Davies - 49 per cent. Lib Dem



Cllr Jenny Davies - 65 per cent. Lib Dem



Cllr Peter Chapman - 65 per cent. Lib Dem



Cllr Martin Pantling - 67 per cent. Lib Dem



Cllr Desline Stewart - 72 per cent. Labour



Cllr Andrew Malcolm - 73 per cent. Labour



Cllr Diane Moles - 74 per cent. Lib Dem



Cllr Michael Garrett - 75 per cent. Con

Cllr Moles said she will be taking her record up with the council as she feels it is incorrect.

She said: "I just think it is dreadfully wrong they can produce these figures and I don't know where they got them from."

"There are times I have been to meetings and have forgotten to sign it but it should be in the minutes that I was there."

Cllr Stewart said: "I have recently had to have a knee operation which has meant that I haven't been very mobile. I have now had the operation

which has been successful and I should be resuming full council duties as soon as I am able."

Cllr Malcolm added that he was absent from some council meetings as he was at school governor meetings.

Cllr Garrett said he had been ill on occasions and was unable to make some meetings and added: "We are a small group [with four councillors] but I think we are listened to and we have still made a difference."

At the other end of the scale, there were five who had 100 per cent

records. These were Labour's Melvin Cato, Yaqub Hanif, Tahir Malik and Mayor Don Worlding, as well as Conservative John Titmuss.

Within the worst performing are Labour councillors Sheila Roden and Raja Saleem with both on 65 per cent. However, they have each had serious personal matters in the past year.

Luton Labour Party organiser Francis Steer said: "Tribute must be paid to Cllr Roden who was very seriously ill during the year and spent many months in hospital.

"Her experience of recovering from

close to death was covered by *Luton On Sunday*. Yet Sheila's attendance record is better or equal to most of the Lib Dem councillors.

"Even more shocking is that Cllr Pantling can just Tweet that he is not going to bother turning up to a council meeting and Sheila did her best to get back to meetings in a wheelchair as soon as she was discharged from hospital.

"Cllr Saleem, very sadly had to nurse his wife in the last months of her life, yet still had better attendance

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Sat 14 Apr 2.30pm



Wed 18 Apr 2.30pm



Fri 20 Apr 7.45pm



Sat 21 Apr 8.00pm



Mon 23 & Tue 24 Apr 8.00pm



Wed 16 May 8.00pm

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Here is a simple way of keeping up to date with events 24 hours a day on www.luton-dunstable.co.uk. All you have to do is use our QR code to download a QR Reader app to your smartphone - there are lots of free ones available online. Then scan the code and our website will load for you.



TWO people were arrested after a firearm and large quantity of suspected Class A drugs were found at a property.

The 26-year-old man and 22-year-old woman were arrested on Suspicion of Possessing a Section 1 Firearm and Possessing a Class A drug with intent to supply, after a search warrant was executed at the property in Guildford Street, Luton. Scenes of Crime Officers attended the scene and the two people arrested are now being questioned by officers from the Serious Crime Investigation Unit.

Pair arrested after gun and drugs found

The officer in charge of this investigation, Detective Constable Mirian Khajavelidze, said: "While the actual threat caused by gun crime is very small and does not affect the vast majority of law abiding people within Bedfordshire, we are not complacent about the dangers posed by these weapons and would therefore urge anyone who has information about those people who carry or have access to illegal weapons to have the

courage to come forward and speak to the police."

"With the help of the public we can rid our county of these weapons and reduce the small number of people affected by gun crime still further."

Anyone with information can contact Bedfordshire Police by calling 101, or text information to 07786 200011. Alternatively, you can contact Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

newsbriefs**BE AN OLYMPIC LEADER**

ORGANISERS of the Olympics are on the lookout for residents of Luton and Central Bedfordshire to help arrange local events to celebrate the games.

If you could inspire neighbours to hold an party, encourage friends and family to celebrate the passing of the Torch Relay or hold a sports quiz, you could be a 'Local Leader.'

For more information, go to www.london2012.com/localleaders.

RAIL BOSSES AT MEETING

COMMUTERS will be able to grill First Capital Connect representatives about their services at an Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

Customer services director, Keith Jipps and integration manager Larry Heyman have been asked to attend the meeting which will take place at Luton Town Hall on Tuesday at 6pm.

COP FIREARMS STORAGE

A NEW idea which is hoped will save the police £30,000 a year is being rolled across the Armed Policing Unit in Bedfordshire.

A purpose-built load carrier has been designed so that firearms officers can safely carry and transport equipment in the boot of their Armed Response Vehicles.

Hertfordshire, Thames Valley Police and Cambridgeshire Constabulary will also use the new carriers.

HOSEPIPE BAN IN FORCE

AS THE hosepipe bans comes into force today, the Bedfordshire and Luton Local Resilience Forum (BLRRF) has issued advice to help local residents save water.

A new webpage packed full of useful tips can be found at www.whatwouldyoudoif.co.uk/savingwater.php

More parking at library at £1,700 per space

BY LAUREN ARCHELL

lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

A MASSIVE £80,000 has been budgeted to create 47 extra parking spaces for visitors to Marsh Farm library - a cost of around £1,700 per space.

Luton Borough Council made the decision following complaints about a lack of available parking after the library moved from the Purley Centre to Lea Manor High School last May.

Customers have complained that they were forced to leave their vehicles on the street after finding the car park behind Lea Manor Recreation Centre full, and a barrier across the entry to spaces at the front of the library.

After a meeting last month, the



Parking at Marsh Farm Library

authority has decided to create extra spaces, which will be added to the current car park behind the Recreation Centre.

A council spokesman said: "We are aware of the parking issues in the area and to address this we are cur-

rently developing a scheme which will increase the number of car parking spaces.

"The car park adjacent to the playing fields is now permanent and currently in use, and spaces at the front of Lea Manor High School will be available to site customers with disability requirements and managed in a more efficient way.

"An additional 47 spaces will be made available behind Lea Manor Recreation Centre which will be jointly managed by service providers and the school.

"Once the scheme has been approved we anticipate the necessary works to be carried out early in the financial year 2012/2013.

"We have budgeted £80,000 for this scheme."

Many serve on different committees, says Lib Dem chief

From page 1
than many of the Lib Dem councillors."

Leader of the Liberal Democrats, David Franks, who himself has an 82 per cent rate, said: "Many Lib Dem members serve on appointments panels, licensing panels, scrutiny sub groups and local voluntary or charity groups.

"These are where much of the work is done, they are very time consuming and attendance does not show up in these figures.

"I know for example that Cllr Jenny Davies has been to three CAB meetings in the past two weeks.

"Cllr Roy Davies devotes a lot of time to his responsibilities on the Fire Authority as does Martin Pantling on the Police Authority and Diane Moles on Health bodies.

"Percentage attendances would be meaningless on these bodies as members who can't be bothered to do the job properly do not allow themselves to be appointed to them in the first place.

"Liberal Democrat councillors have a very good record of attendance at meetings where they can actually make a difference.

"The top priorities for Liberal Democrat councillors are to look

after the interests of residents in their Wards and to seek what is best for the town as a whole."

Cllr Mel Cato, one of the Labour members who has a 100 per cent attendance said: "When I was elected to the council last May, I saw it as a duty to attend all the committees that I was elected to serve on.

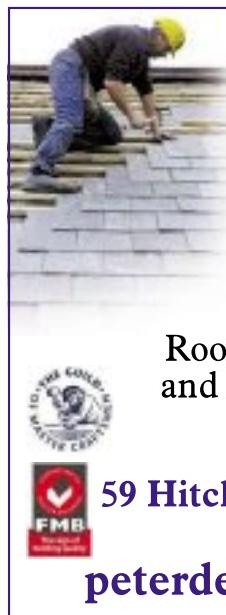
"I also saw it as very important to set up an advice surgery in my ward and to attend all the ward events. The ward had previously been represented by Lib Dem councillors who don't do advice surgeries."

Cllrs Pantling and Chapman and did not return our calls.

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Jewellery of huge sentimental value stolen

TWO rings worth £30,000 were stolen from a pensioner's windowsill.

The 77-year-old victim removed the jewellery and left them on the bathroom window ledge at her home in Union Street, Dunstable.

When she returned at about 10.30am on March 29 - about half an hour after placing them there - they were missing. The rings taken were of sentimental value to the victim and were more than

50 years old. Both rings are also very distinctive and are described as:

■ Emerald cut diamond which is rectangular in shape and about 10mm long and 8mm wide. The diamond is 2.6 to three carat and on the shoulders of the ring are elongated baguette diamonds which are around 7mm long and 3mm wide. The platinum band is slim.

■ Round cut (brilliant cut) four carat diamond with a 10mm circumference.

Good quality stone with excellent clarity and few imperfections. Set on a platinum band.

PC Chris Rust said: "If these rings have been offered to jewellers, antique dealers or pawn shops, they would be extremely memorable due to their rarity and value and I would like to hear from anyone who may have been approached."

If you have information, call the non-emergency number 101.

Lady claims she's 'being picked on' in notice dispute



Lady Margaret Osborne with the notice

BY SOPHIE SCOTT

sophie.scott@lutononsunday.co.uk

AN ELDERLY woman is trying to clear her name after being handed a notice about her 'threatening' behaviour.

Margaret Osborne, 77, lives in Luton Borough Council sheltered accommodation and believes the notice is 'defamatory'.

Lady Osborne, who was married to Sir Charles Osborne before his death three years ago, said: "I think this is completely defamatory."

"I am being picked on. I was not aware of anything going on and then suddenly these notices were going up everywhere."

"Only once did I put a saucer of milk out for a tabby cat who comes around the area. We have problems with rats, you see, and that has helped get rid of them."

The Unacceptable Behaviour Notice, which was given last June, states that she will not 'abuse, intimidate or threaten residents, tenants or any other person living in or visiting Milner

Court' or 'access anyone at the main entrance unless they are specifically visiting [her].'

It also adds that she will not leave food for animals in the communal area or encourage anyone else to do so.

A council spokeswoman said: "An Acceptable Behaviour Contract (ABC) is issued where we need to give someone a written warning about their behaviour and hope to avoid formal legal action, such as a Notice of Seeking Possession. The ABC details the behaviour we wish to stop."

"If someone is not willing to sign their agreement to the contract, we then serve an ABC Notice defining what is and isn't expected of them."

"In most cases, including that of Lady Margaret Osborne, an ABC is a last resort and follows a series of visits, letters and verbal warnings to try to prevent antisocial or nuisance behaviour. The success rate of ABCs is generally high."

"If Lady Margaret contacts the council, we would be pleased to discuss her ABC."

Have a say on bid to help those with learning difficulties

A NEW draft strategy to improve the lives of Adults with Learning Disabilities and their families has been launched by Central Bedfordshire Council and NHS Bedfordshire.

The Draft Joint Commissioning Strategy for

Adults with Learning Disabilities in Central Bedfordshire sets out the plan for learning disability services for the next four years for services such as housing, health, employment, learning and support to be involved in the local community.

Cllr Carole Hegley said: "Central Bedfordshire Council is now asking for comments on the plan so we can make sure we include all the things which are important to people with learning disabilities."

"We would like to hear from as many people as possible."

Residents can register their comments by reading the document and then completing the online questionnaire at: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say/current-online-consultations.aspx>

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Passengers will be able to take cover in modern shelter

A NEW waiting shelter has been installed at Leagrave Train Station as part of a new scheme.

The new construction, which has been built as part of the National Station Improvement Programme (NSIP), has been made with modern materials and incorporates the latest solar technology to ensure that light is only provided when required.

NSIP is a Department for Transport programme with the aim of delivering noticeable and lasting



improvements to stations for the benefit of passengers.

First Capital Connect's Projects Director, Ian

Duncan Santiago, said: "I am very pleased with how the new shelters have turned out. "I am confident our

customers will appreciate the latest in what is a long line of improvements to our stations."

Fears for hygiene as factory brings in new time rules

BY LAUREN ARCHELL

lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

IT IS feared that rigorous new clocking in and out procedures at a well known sandwich factory will have a detrimental effect on hygiene procedures.

It is believed that Daily Bread, of Britannia Estates, Luton, implemented new rules last Wednesday that mean if a worker clocks in a minute late from lunch, they will be deducted 15 minutes pay.

We were informed that the company, which supplies sandwiches to British Home Stores, Lidl and

FlyBe, had planned a ten-day trial to test the proposals, but the move was made permanent in a briefing after eight days.

Now an employee fears that the risk of losing out on money will mean that workers rush, or even skip, the strict hygiene procedures so that they can get back to work on time.

The employee, who we have agreed not to name, said: "The workers here get two 30 minute breaks during their shift. Once they leave the production line, they have to remove their coats and change their shoes, before

washing their hands and going to the canteen.

"After they have eaten, the same procedures have to be followed in reverse before they go back down to production.

"Can you imagine 30 or 40 people trying to do all that in half an hour?

"No one wants to be deducted money for their pay, and I'm worried that the rush to get back to work will mean that people will skip washing their hands."

We contacted Daily Bread for a comment on these concerns but received no response.

MISSING copper piping from a mains gas supply lead to a leak in a road in Luton.

Firefighters were called to Dumfries Street, Luton, at around 3.40pm on Wednesday following reports of a gas leak.

Two appliances from Luton and one from Stopsley attended the

Stolen copper pipe leads to gas leak

scene and crews were quickly able to isolate the gas supply.

It was confirmed that the leak had been caused due to an amount of copper piping being missing from the mains gas supply.

A spokesperson from the National Grid said: "Stealing copper gas pipes is not only illegal but also very dangerous and should never be attempted. Such thefts can result in a gas escape and even a fire or explosion. If anyone sees someone attempting to steal copper gas pipes, or smells gas they are urged to immediately contact the National Gas Emergency Service on 0800 111 999 and the police."



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Top designer Jonathan pays a visit to school

A GROUP of students had a visit from a world famous guest.

The class from Stopsley High School's Year 10 Graphic Products and BTEC

Media class had a talk from graphic designer, Jonathan Barnbrook.

The famous designer grew up in Luton and went to Barnfield College before heading

to design school. He spoke to students about his world of work, careers and his past work.

Mr Barnbrook has his own company and

design studio in London and told the group how to get into the industry as well as his work on David Bowie's album cover and Damien Hirst's book.

Sex offences against children on the increase

BY ADAM THOMPSON
editor@lsmmedia.co.uk

MORE THAN four children a week were victims of sex crimes in Bedfordshire over a 12 month period.

In total 214 kids in the county were attacked in the offences in 2010-2011 that ranged from rape to pornography.

The numbers published by the NSPCC also show that 47 of the victims in Bedfordshire had not

reached secondary school age with 19 of the victims aged five and under. The majority of the offences (132) were reported against 11-17 year olds.

Across England and Wales more than 400 sexual assaults against children were reported to police forces every week last year with fewer than one in ten resulting in a conviction.

The number of convictions in England and Wales has risen by around one-quarter from 1,747 in

2007 to 2,135 in 2010. Dan Russell, regional head of service at the NSPCC, said: "Many of these distressing offences are committed on extremely young and helpless children, who may not understand what is happening to them and are unable to ask for help.

"The NSPCC is doing what it can by using information like this from the police to tailor our treatment services - different approaches are needed depending on the age of the child."

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Row breaks out over road closures for busway work

BY LAUREN ARCHELL

lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

LIBERAL Democrat leader, Councillor David Franks has spoken out against a four-month road closure to complete work on the busway.

It has been announced that a 200-metre stretch of Guildford Street, Luton, is to be closed to traffic and pedestrians from Monday, for construction connected to the Luton Dunstable Busway.

The work will involve raising the level of the street by more than two metres, but Cllr Franks has said that the closure will be a "huge addition to the already chaotic traffic conditions."

He said: "It's a couple of days late for an April Fool joke so I suppose they must be serious.

"Nobody you speak to around the town actually wants the coun-



Work taking place on the previous busway construction

cil to spend £90 million of taxpayers' money on the busway."

But Cllr Roy Davis hit back, saying: "As Luton progresses and regeneration takes off there is going to be some disruption and road closures.

"When Cllr Franks ran the coun-

cil regeneration stalled – and we can see why with his attitude. It is like he is trying to sabotage the progress of the town."

For an up-to-date list of works and temporary traffic restrictions associated with the busway visit www.luton.gov.uk/busway.

Group steal teen's new Raleigh bike

A TEENAGER who was trying out his new bike had it stolen by a 12-strong gang.

The 13-year-old victim was riding the black and red Raleigh Bomber bicycle at the White Lion Retail Park in Dunstable when the boys approached him and four of them threatened him,

one with a knife. It is believed that the robbery only stopped after the group were disturbed by a passerby who was walking through the car park at about 8pm on March 23.

Det Con Jo Bosson said:

"This was a cowardly attack on a young lad who was doing nothing more than riding his new bicycle at the retail park and doing a few tricks."

The four main offenders are all described as being about

15. The offender with the knife is described as Asian, the second is described as white, the third was black and the fourth was also Asian.

If you have information call the non-emergency number 101.

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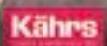
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yourletters

Tactics would never work

SIR - I have just witnessed David Cameron's 'Big Society' in action. Seeing some greedy, selfish, people scrambling to fill their cars up with petrol.

Anyone would think that the world was going to end. But can you blame them? The government wanted to use the motorist as a weapon to try to break the tanker drivers strike, which hasn't even started. How could they possibly think that such scaremongering tactics could have ever succeeded.

Makes you wonder, these are the same jokers who are running our country.

Brits cancel Easter because of fuel shortage. That's a shame. The first break since Christmas will be ruined. Seaside folk need day trips to earn their living.

Thanks to the Tories' bad advice on stockpiling fuel, looks like they will be joining the millions already on the dole.

John Tucker
Bracklesham Gardens, Luton

Well done to players

SIR - I agree with Mr John Young's (chairman of Luton Conservative Association) comments on the Luton Irish Forum's St Patrick's Day Festival Events (*Luton on Sunday* Letters April 1).

I also add well done, to the Grange Players all the way from County Sligo in the West of Ireland, that performed in Luton Central Library, on St Patrick's night and on Sunday night, March 18, in John Keane's Play 'The Field'.

All the cast are stars, I met most of them during the three days that they were in Luton and they are all are very nice people and good ambassadors for County Sligo. I was there on both nights, it was an outstanding performance.

Well done to the chairman of the Luton Irish Forum Festival Committee, he has been chairman since the Luton St Patrick's Festival committee's inception, about 13 years ago. He has good team members, and he is a great team motivator.

Peadar McKenna
(Luton Irish Forum Member)
Hanover Court, Nappsbury Road, Luton

Pioneering school

SIR - Your readers might like to know that Bedfordshire is pioneering yet another new way to run schools.

The Barnfield Federation in Luton wants to run its further education college as a profit-making business, with any surplus cash used to pay a dividend to shareholders. It also sponsors three academies, and its chief executive, Pete Birkett, is quoted in the *Guardian* as saying that if this first stage is a success 'there is no reason we can't make it successful in the schools'.

Nick Clegg has ruled out profit-making in state schools, but Mr Birkett expects the government to relax this barrier.

He has also said that he has contacted a private equity group with his proposals, and 'the response to that, yes, they believed there'd be a lot of interest from private investors'. This is of course always presented as a new source of fund-

It's the Tories who want to slash number of MPs

SIR - I read with interest (*Luton On Sunday*, April 1) that the leader of Central Beds Council, Cllr James Jamieson and South West Bedfordshire MP Andrew Selous (pictured) have submitted a petition calling on the independent Boundary Commission not to form a new Dunstable and Luton North constituency.

It is their Tory government that wants to reduce the number of MPs (from 533 to 502) and as a consequence of this constituencies will get larger and areas will get merged.

Are they against this government proposal, or is it that they want the number of MPs reduced but only if it is Labour MPs who lose their seats?

Cllr Jamieson makes the point that the MP representing the new constituency would favour the Luton part over the Dunstable part. Most MPs are capable of treating all the different parts of their constituencies fairly and equally.

The existing Luton North has very diverse areas ranging from Marsh Farm to Barnfield and I know that Kelvin Hopkins represents all areas to an incredibly high standard and that all constituents get a first class service. If Kelvin was elected as the MP for the new constituency I know he would fairly represent all areas and all constituents with the same vigour and commitment that Luton North has enjoyed for the past 15 years.

Alan Roden
Duncombe Close, Luton

ing, as though these companies were charities, but the clue is in the "profit-making" – they need to take out more than they give.

Mr Birkett describes all this as being 'ready to step up a level', but is it a step the rest of us want to take?

Rob Wall
Rutland Road, Bedford

Why ban is needed

SIR - The first domestic hosepipe ban in our part of the world for 20 years began on Thursday. I want to explain why we have reached this point, what Anglian Water are doing to lessen the effects of the drought and how your readers can help.

Simply, it all comes down to a lack of rain.

Our region has just had the driest 18 months for a century.

Two dry winters have denied us the rain we need to replenish rivers, reservoirs and aquifers.

Our first duty as a water company is to keep supplies for our 4.2 million customers secure.

With no way of knowing whether we face months more dry weather, perhaps even a third dry winter, we have to do what we can to make the water we have go further. So that means a hosepipe ban.

It also means we as a company need to do all we can to make the most of this precious resource. Since last April we have spent £120 million on making better use of water.

Then there is our new campaign.

Drop 20 is the largest water-saving campaign Anglian Water has ever launched.

We are asking people to try to reduce the amount of water they use every day by 20 litres – enough to fill two buckets.

Simple steps will make big savings and we will be there to help with advice and water saving kits for home and garden. I know this hosepipe ban is unwelcome, inconvenient and will cause real difficulties for some.

This is not something we do lightly but the drought is too serious to ignore.

We believe our customers recognise this, will observe the ban and do what they can to save water. We need and greatly appreciate their understanding, help and support.

Peter Simpson
Managing director of Anglian Water

No need to panic

SIR - How would one describe the many drivers out there who went out panic buying petrol and diesel?

This is how; THE MOB; greedy, inconsiderate, and lacking basic common sense. There are those who blame government ministers for sending out wrong messages via the media. You could argue that, but the facts are: there was no imminent threat of a strike by tanker drivers; no date for a strike was given; assurances were made that supplies were plentiful and talks with the union are still going on. It's very likely there will never

be one. It is also clear that these people don't mind wasting money. I thought fuel was increasingly unaffordable - it is now. And it's the more prudent and sensible amongst us that are paying the price for this madness.

P Parker
By email

Real community spirit

SIR - Like many people in our community I was shocked and saddened to hear of the bin fire close to the Bury Park Jamie Masjid Mosque early on Tuesday.

I would echo the praise for our fire service for the prompt and efficient way the fire was dealt with which prevented it spreading any further. I understand that the police are taking this matter very seriously and investigations are ongoing.

Whilst we do not yet know the full facts about how this fire occurred, the possibility that it may have been started deliberately is alarming.

As always though the positive spirit that exists within Luton shone through in the reaction to this event.

I was in contact with various members of the community on Tuesday and was extremely encouraged by the overwhelming sympathy and support being offered from leaders of different community groups, faiths and cultures.

It is this unique spirit that stands us in good stead to meet any challenges that may come our way. Luton is a town that demonstrates time and time again that our rich array of cultures and backgrounds are bound by a common purpose - to create a unique harmony that celebrates our diversity.

Cllr Hazel Simmons
Leader of Luton Borough Council

letters policy

LETTERS, preferably a maximum of 300 words, must arrive by 3pm on Wednesday. Full name and address must be supplied. Details will be withheld only in exceptional circumstances. Write to: Letters to the Editor, Luton on Sunday, 28 King Street, Luton, LU1 2DP. You can also email your letters to: editor@lsonmedia.co.uk



The stories you've been commenting on this week ...

Car trader fined

■ Feel sorry for the lady who travelled all the way just to get in a trap by this dodgy trader, council should ensure he doesn't get involved with any public trading in the future. **Hassan**

■ These kind of traders give bad impression to other traders based in Luton, all motor vehicles should be thoroughly checked by the trader before they advertise it, I am glad this cowboy trader has been fined, he deserves that! **Michael**

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Your comments on Twitter
@LutonOnSunday

Pub plans refused

■ @guiltyearth but they still argue 'Don't let Dunstable Die!', the council says one thing and does another, absolute total farce

School arts praised

■ @russell_george Well done Icknield High!
■ @millibela congratulates Icknield for wonderful work

Meetings reduced

■ @collyeates Area meetings reduced because #Labour @lutoncouncil never listens to anyone else anyway!!

MP on award shortlist

■ @guiltyearth @gavinshuker, well done for being nominated

Water feature off

■ @alyssajk9 thank god! That thing ***** me off. Always worried the kids will soak me!!

Hatters sack Brabin

■ @christofflennon Very good article in today's @LutonOnSunday about Brabin.

Love Luton tickets

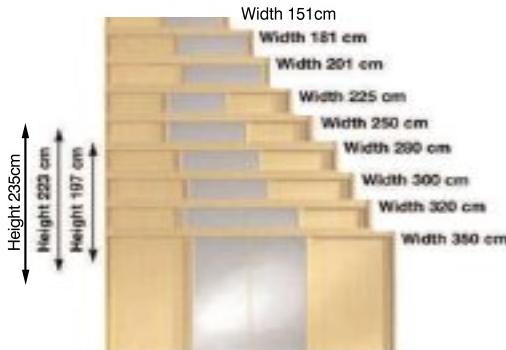
■ @collyeates @LutonOnSunday ad suggests still less than 2.5K tickets sold for @love_luton Festival? What's the financial break even figure? Who pays tab?



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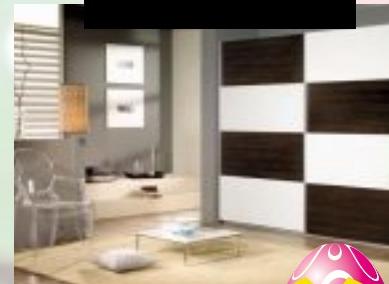
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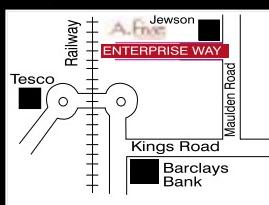
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The Council requires that all bins are removed from the pavement within 12 hours of a collection.

If your bins are left out continuously, then they could be taken away and alternative arrangements made for waste collection from your address. Enforcement action may also be taken.



For more information about waste collection in Luton, or to check your collection day, call 01582 510333 or go to www.luton.gov.uk/recycling

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Follow Steve on Twitter: @lsonsteve

**stevelowe**

Now we'll all be paying the price with Big Brother watching us...

HERE is a rumour in the newspaper world that if you send an email containing aggressive viewpoints about the USA, or derogatory comments about its President, the email will take longer than usual to reach its destination and the person who sent it will be under the watch of the CIA.

As the speed of emails is notoriously inconsistent it has been a difficult theory to prove.

Now of course we don't have to because our Government has told us it is going to be reading all our emails, twitters etc as part of its anti-terrorism campaign. And why not, I hear some of you saying, if it will reduce the risk of terrorism?

Well first, it will not reduce the risk of terrorism, mainly because terrorists, by and large, do not email each other about their activities.

What it will do is further erode the freedom of ordinary citizens and especially citizens whose name sounds Middle Eastern in origin.

It will also increase the pow-

ers of those who enforce state power, which is the last thing we need.

If we could guarantee that normal, well-rounded, intelligent people were watching over us - and our emails - we might not be too worried. Sadly that is not the case.

You only have to look at the case of Jean Charles de Menezes, a Brazilian man shot in the head seven times at Stockwell tube station on the London Underground by the London Metropolitan police, because they thought he was one of the terrorists involved in the London bombings. There is not enough room here to go into the whole story but the police case is riddled with inconsistencies, to put it mildly.

Then we have extraordinary rendition, which is a vague term for the American CIA lifting people off the streets of anywhere in the world and taking them somewhere where they can be tortured without too many questions being asked.

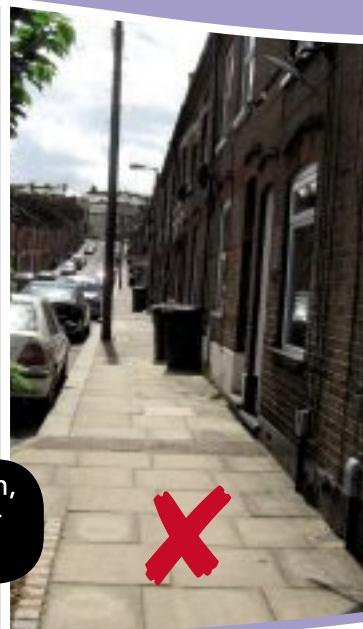
Often these people are completely innocent and while many countries have wrung their hands and complained about the practice, it still goes on.

We even had a lad in Mid Beds who attracted the attention of the CIA because he was rude about President Obama. On that basis the British security services are going to be busy once they start looking at our emails.

One of the ironies of this somewhat scary idea is that it was proposed by the previous Labour Government and dropped after strong opposition by the then Conservative and Lib Dem opposition. I wonder if Labour will now oppose it?

With such lack of principle on all sides it is not hard to see how someone such as George Galloway can get elected.

Labour, and to some extent the Lib Dems, sold their soul for power and the ministerial car. Now they cannot get it back. And, as a result, Big Brother will be watching us.



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Hosepipe ban sees water feature turned off

THE water feature in St George's Square has been turned off to comply with the hosepipe ban. Veolia Water is among a number of water companies who introduced a hosepipe ban on Thursday, and water restrictions which

apply to the use of ornamental fountains. The water feature was opened in 2009 at a cost of £300,000. Cllr Roy Davis said: "The water feature is a focal point of the square, especially in warmer weather, and a popular paddling area

for young children in particular. "This announcement will be frustrating for parents but it is essential that the council complies with the restrictions as we all try to conserve water in the coming months." Seven water

companies have introduced restrictions on water use following one of the driest two-year periods on record. Around 20 million people will be affected by the ban, and risk facing a £1,000 fine if they still use their hosepipe.

Widespread support for mosque after fire

BY LAUREN ARCHELL

lauren.archell@lutononsunday.co.uk

FAITH leaders have encouraged 'a stance of peace and calm' following a fire that was started outside a mosque.

Members of Luton Council of Faiths met outside the Bury Park Jamie Masjid in Bury Park Road, Luton, to express solidarity after two wheelie bins were set alight outside the building in the early hours of Monday morning.

Chairman Zafar Khan, said: "As Luton Council of Faiths, we therefore pledge our strong resolve, to continue playing an active role in creating an environment of understanding and respect amongst the many religious and culturally diverse communities in the town. We wish to convey, to



Luton Council of Faiths outside the fire-damaged mosque

everyone at the Masjid, our message of solidarity, prayers, support and encouragement for the stance of peace and calm which the mosque leadership has chosen to convey across to the Muslim community after the arson attack on the mosque."

A full police investigation is currently being carried out in relation

to the incident, and officers are keen to trace any members of the public who may have seen anyone acting suspiciously in the area.

Anyone with information about this incident can contact DC Knight, in confidence, on 01582 473142 Bedfordshire Police on 101, or text information to 07786 200011.

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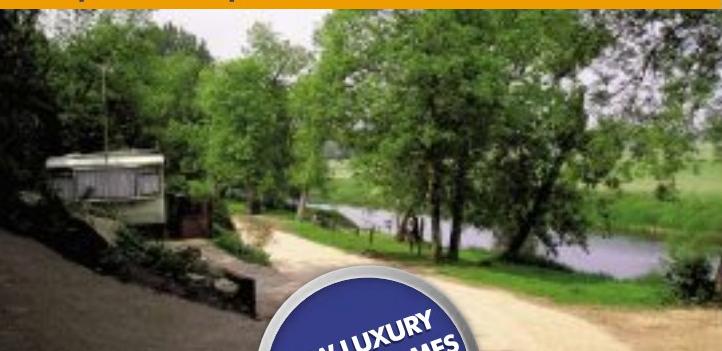
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Musical chameleons

FORMED just seven months ago, Shades of Sound are preparing for a big year.

The four-piece band from Luton has already been snapped up to play at the Love Luton festival this summer, and will find out today whether they will win the right to play at the O2 Arena in London.

This opportunity comes after the group, comprising of lead singer Sean Stevens, 27, lead guitarist King Kittappa, 27, bass guitarist Lee Hart, 26, and drummer Energy, entered the Live and Unsigned 2012 competition, in a bid to share their unique mix of reggae, soul, hip-hop and Motown with a wider audience.

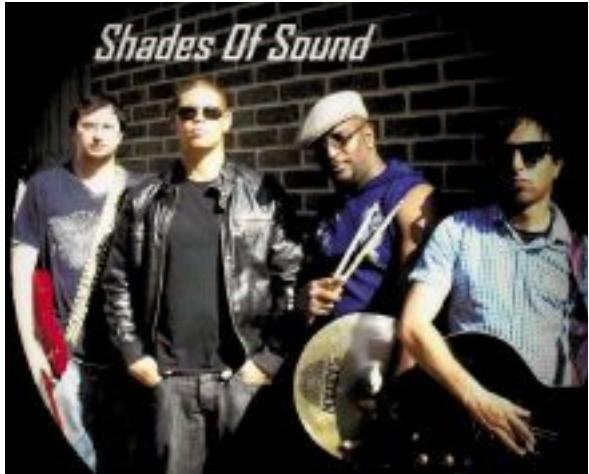
The national contest for new and original talent has attracted more than 50,000 entries over the last five years, and this year Shades of Sound hope to win it.

After wowing the judging panel in the original auditions, the band beat hundreds of other acts to secure a spot in the live shows, and will now take part in a live Regional Final Showcase at the Bedford Corn Exchange at 4pm today.

The band will be battling it out for the chance to play at the Grand Final, which is incorporated into London's biggest indoor festival, Live Fest, at the O2 Arena in July.

Shades of Sound are hoping that they will not only make it to the final, but will be crowned the UK's best unsigned act.

If they are, they will also win



AFTER making waves on the local scene, a band from Luton are now one step away from playing at the O2 Arena in London. LAUREN ARCHELL speaks to Shades of Sound about their hopes for the Live and Unsigned competition and beyond.

Sean Stevens said he can't believe how quickly things have moved, but is optimistic about the band's chances in the competition.

He said: "Just seven months ago we got together as a group of friends for a few drinks and had a musical jam session together.



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MP sees councillor daughter graduate

BY LAUREN ARCHELL

lauren.archell@lutonconsunday.co.uk

IT was a proud day for Luton North MP Kelvin Hopkins as he watched his daughter graduate from the University of Bedfordshire.

Rachel Hopkins accepted her Master of Science in Human Resources Management, as her dad, mum Pat and husband Bryan looked on proudly on March 28.

Rachel, who is also a Luton Borough Councillor for Barnfield, said: "It felt like a very special day for me to celebrate getting my degree with my friends and family. It was special for both me and my father as we both have links with the University. It was a truly lovely day."



L-R Kelvin Hopkins, Rachel Hopkins, Bryan Davey and Pat Hopkins

Photo by Ede and Ravenscroft Ltd

Kelvin said: "It was a delight to see our daughter Rachel receive her Masters degree from the University of Bedfordshire at the beautiful St Mary's Church. Rachel's graduation was in every way a superb day for our family and we all enjoyed the springtime sunshine too."

The family have close ties to the University as Rachel used to work as a project officer at the university, helping to negotiate and plan the merger between the then University of Luton and the Bedford campus formally part of De Montfort University.

Mr Hopkins was Chairman of Governors of the then Luton College of Higher Education in the 1980s.

The Dean of the Business School Dr Sonal Minocha said: "This was my first graduation ceremony at the University of Bedfordshire and I was delighted to be part of an occasion that marks a milestone for each of our graduates and also heralds the beginning of a bright future of opportunities that awaits them in the global economy."

Inspectors praise inclusive children's centre

THE education inspection body has judged the Chaul End Children's Centre as delivering a good service.

Ofsted inspectors acknowledged nursery staff supervised the children, ranging from

babies to the age of five, with great care and the partnerships with parents and carers ensured the needs of children are successfully met.

Centre manager, Shagufta Anwar, was praised for being

ambitious and having a vision for the nursery. Ofsted also said that although the majority of pupils are from an Asian background, the nursery makes every effort to be as inclusive as possible.

Shagufta Anwar said:

"Over the past six years we have continually developed services to meet the growing needs of the local community we serve and it's fantastic to see our hard efforts, commitment and enthusiasm have been recognised by Ofsted."

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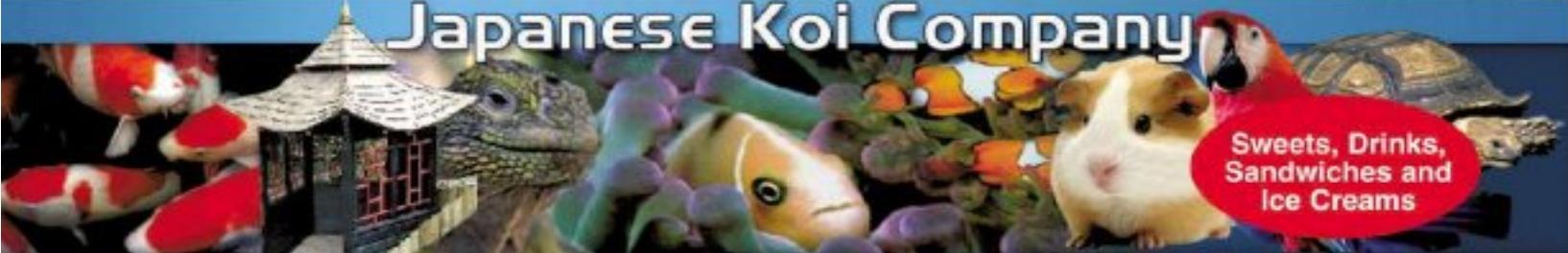
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Deaths

DAVIS Jacqueline (Jacky). A loving and much loved Daughter of Brian and Margaret Davis, Sister Joanne, Partner Linda and Auntie to Becky and Craig passed away suddenly on Thursday the 29th March 2012 aged just 50 surrounded by her loving family. A funeral service will take place at All Saint's Church, Caddington on Monday 16th April at 1.45 p.m. All are welcome to attend the service. Flowers are welcome and may be sent to White Dove Funeral Home, 50 High Street South, Dunstable.

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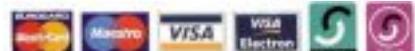
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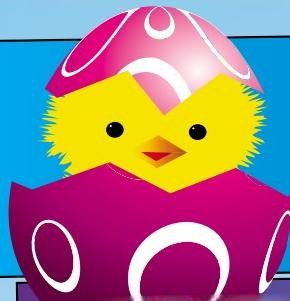
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It's the business



PRESIDENTATION: Vauxhall Motor's Phil Millward (right) and Jo Hirons HR Advisor receive high ranking Britain's Top Employer Award from David Plink, CRF Institute CEO

It's official - Vauxhall's top place to work

VAUXHALL has been ranked as one of the best employers in the country.

The company, based in Kimpton Road, Luton, came fourth out of 66 other organisations based on research by the CRF Institute, which specialises in international research into HR management and working conditions.

It was given the ranking because by the Institute for its 'exceptional' working conditions, benefits and company culture.

Vauxhall has schemes to encourage its employees to communicate and exchange ideas and thoughts at all levels and to be actively involved in generating positive change throughout the company.

According to CRF Institute, Vauxhall demonstrates dedication to its workforce and the community where it operates, also offering excellent international career opportunities.

Duncan Aldred, chairman and manag-

ing director, said: "Employee engagement is important in everything we do and I am proud to work amongst such a multi-skilled and involved workforce."

"Our HR team has done an excellent job creating a great workplace of choice and I am extremely pleased to see all our efforts rewarded with this high ranking Top Employer certification for 2012."

Eleanor Nickerson, country manager of Britain's Top Employers, said: "This year we're proud to certify our strongest group of Top Employers to date."

"Increasingly we're seeing creative and intelligent HR practices and employee offerings that ensure the working experience is positive, and that employee groups get what they want from their employer."

"We're seeing a heavy emphasis on flexible benefits, on segmented employee offerings and on career development that ensures employee growth and good succession planning."

Plea for more to be done to address lack of capacity at airports

THE Chamber of Commerce has called on the Government to tackle the problem of capacity at airports such as Luton.

Currently, both airport operator London Luton Airport Operators Limited and owner London Luton Airport Limited are putting together separate plans to increase passenger numbers.

Cheryl Smart MBE, chief executive of the Bedfordshire Chamber, has said regional airports like the town's need to be strengthened before other economies overtake Britain's.

She said: "There is an aviation-shaped hole in the Government's plans to improve the UK's infrastructure and encourage growth.

"While ministers acknowledge the threat a lack of capacity at UK airports poses to our economy, too little is being done to address it.



"The UK will miss out on investment and jobs if the government does not act now to improve capacity in the South East, strengthen our

regional airports and develop more connections to emerging markets.

"The publication of the Aviation Policy Framework has been delayed

until the summer, giving the government ample time to investigate the available options for boosting the UK's aviation capacity. But con-

tinued delay risks leaving the UK at a competitive disadvantage to its global competitors.

"While Britain dithers, others act. Foreign competitors are forging ahead on new air links while we sit and twiddle our thumbs.

"A recent survey of business leaders by ICM Research revealed that the UK will miss out on investment because of poor air connections.

"Business leaders in high growth or emerging economies see direct air links as vital to maintaining the UK's prospects in global markets.

"Nine out of ten (92 per cent) of these business leaders say direct flights influence their inward investment decisions; while eight in ten (80 per cent) say they would trade more with the UK if flight connections were improved to their home markets."

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This is something that has been seen a number of times in the last couple of months.

One such case was Mr A, who was owed

approximately £3,500 in respect of four unpaid invoices by a client, 'B&C'.

Mr A did not want to incur legal fees so prepared the claim form and particulars of claim himself.

'B&C' did not respond to the claim form and Mr A requested judgment in default against 'B&C'.

Judgment was entered against 'B&C'.

Mr A then tried to enforce the judgment against 'B&C'.

This is when matters became unstuck.

'B&C' was a husband and wife partnership, it was not a legal entity in its own right.

The claim should have

been issued against Mr and Mrs B trading as 'B&C'.

The importance this has is that 'B&C' did not have any assets in its own name, everything was in the name of Mr and Mrs B.

There was no way of enforcing the judgment as it stood.

There were a number of options open to Mr A, and eventually he opted to reissue the claim against Mr and Mrs B trading as 'B&C'.

This caused a considerable delay in Mr A recovering the monies he was owed and he ended up incurring more legal fees than he would have if he had

approached us initially.

Machins Solicitors offers a free 30 minute interview and can prepare your claim form and particulars of claim for a fixed fee.

The name and address of the defendant might seem like the relatively straightforward part of the claim, but if incorrect can have costly consequences.

For more information on matters such as this, contact Eleanor Broe, Assistant Solicitor with Machins Solicitors LLP specialising in commercial litigation, on 01582 514389 or at eleanor.broe@machins.co.uk

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LUTON
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It's the business

Group 'proud' to get award

A CHARITY has been awarded an accreditation that is aimed to improve business and performance.

Luton Culture, the registered charity which looks after arts, museums and libraries in Luton recently has been given the Investors in People (IiP) award.

In a statement it said: "Set up as a charitable trust in March 2008, Luton Culture is proud to receive the award only four years after being set up."

The charity, which operates Luton's Libraries, Stockwood Discovery Centre, Wardown Park Museum, the Hat Factory and Luton Library Theatre, focuses on offering cultural opportunities for communities in and around Luton.

Chief executive Maggie Appleton said "It's been a very challenging year for us and to achieve IiP now is a real testament to the contribution of people all across the Trust."

The Investors in People accreditation offers a framework in which Luton Culture can develop business improvements and performance through its staff.

To find out more about Luton Culture, visit www.lutonculture.com



Adam takes gong for customer service

A BUSINESSMAN has won a national award for providing outstanding service to customers.

Adam Smith, who set up Revive Luton in 2009, faced stiff competition from the 70 other Revive! operators in the UK but was named winner of the Outstanding Service Delivery Award at the organisation's national conference last Saturday.

Revive! specialises in repairing minor scuffs and scrapes to vehicle bodywork and alloy wheels.

On presenting the award to Adam, Revive! director Terry Mullen said: "Adam is an excellent team player, regularly working outside of his area and taking on additional employees in order to meet the needs of a new group dealer account."

Mr Smith said: "We pride ourselves on delivering the best customer service to all our customers and are very aware that reputation is built on both the quality of your work and the way you interact with people."

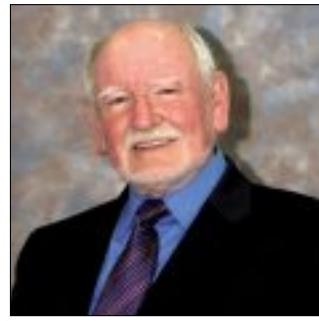
Bid to boost skills and economy

A NEW project to improve skills, employment prospects and the local economy has been given the go ahead.

Executive councillors at Central Bedfordshire Council voted to develop the All Age Skills Strategy in partnership with local businesses, community organisations and individuals to enable them to work together to provide the required support and training to meet the needs of the local economy now and in the future.

The aim is to support businesses to grow and thrive, get residents of all ages into work and training and to increase the supply of skilled people in Central Bedfordshire.

Cllr Ken Matthews (pictured) said: "In an increasingly competitive world skills have a critical role to play. Peo-



ple of all ages need them to get work and to develop their careers.

"Businesses need a skilled workforce to enable them to grow and

encourage competitiveness and innovation whilst supporting the local economy to compete on a local, national and international level. A skilled workforce and a growing economy also attract much needed inward investment.

"This strategy outlines how we will be working in partnership with local employers, education and training providers, and individuals to look at new ways of joint working to enable Central Bedfordshire to achieve its full potential."

The All Age Skills Strategy is an integral part of the council's Economic Development Plan and contains three main priorities:

■ Working together – bringing together partners to ensure that employers, individuals and the local

economy are getting the skills they need

■ Developing the future and current workforce – increasing the amount of people in the workforce with recognised skills to stimulate productivity and encourage competitiveness, growth and innovation

■ Raising individual aspiration and achievements – to raise awareness of the support and opportunities that are available locally for residents of all ages and to promote the importance of gaining appropriate skills.

It is proposed to monitor the success of the strategy on an annual basis.

To view the strategy in full visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/learning/adult-learning/all-age-skills-strategy.aspx

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It's the business

Project will focus on 'The Eastern Mile'

A NEW business group was launched last month aimed at promoting businesses in the Bury Park area of Luton and encouraging engagement with other groups in the town.

The Luton Bury Park Business Community (LBBC) has been set up by business people to widen opportunities through business networks outside Bury Park, sustain growth, eradicate any negative press, stimulate awareness and improve the area with positive PR and public events.

Bury Park is known as a vibrant and iconic area of Luton with an active business community.

LBBC has branded the area 'The Eastern Mile', emphasising the unique identity of Bury Park with its prosperous and exotic business profile.

The trade partnership - which is supported by Luton Borough Council, Luton Town Football Club and the Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce - was launched at a reception at Bury Park's Crescent Hall.

In attendance were a host of dignitaries including Baroness Howells and Brian Hibbert CBE, chairman of Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce.

"I was really delighted to attend the event," said Mr Hibbert. "I'm always impressed by how busy the Bury Park area is, whatever time you go there."

"LBBC will allow the businesses of Bury Park to gain a wider audience and, importantly, engage with businesses and organisations

further afield in Luton and more widely in Bedfordshire."

He added: "One way in which Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce is facilitating this increased engagement is by offering LBBC members access to some of the services of the Chamber through LBBC's affiliate membership of our organisation.

"We're really pleased to increase our foothold in this community which is so vital to the prosperity of Luton as a whole."

Trio join forces to look at rising costs of energy

A NEW training programme has been jointly developed by Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton Borough Councils to address the rising costs and environmental impacts of energy use across the county.

This new programme will help organisations save money, reduce energy and allow staff and volunteers to develop new skills.

While most energy efficiency training ends when the workshop does, this programme will provide ongoing support to participants for up to six months.

This new programme, paid for through the Climate Change Skills Fund, will train representatives from a whole range of organisations how to perform energy audits.

They will then be able to continually improve their organisations as well as train others to improve efficiency.

The programme has been specifically designed to target delegates from three sectors where energy efficiency impacts will have the most benefit, namely businesses, schools and community groups, and it is open to organisations from across Bedfordshire.

Each of the day-long training events cover the basics of energy efficiency auditing, highlighting issues specific to each of the three sectors, and will allow time for attendees to discuss their requirements one on one with trainers to maximise the energy savings they can achieve at their own organisations.

After the event auditing tools will be available to all participants, and training providers will be available to answer questions and support the ongoing efforts of Bedfordshire organisations to save energy.

Clr Dave Taylor (*pictured*) said: "This new programme will provide much-



needed support to Bedfordshire's organisations. We hope that all participants will be able to learn new skills, and reduce their energy use."

There will be six initial workshops available at venues across the county.

For more information and to book your place visit www.brookes.ac.uk/eie/bedfordshire-audit-training.htm

Alternatively call Jodie Colclough on 01582 546118 or email jodie.colclough@luton.gov.uk

Hundreds go along to find out about skills and jobs

NEARLY 500 people attended a Skills, Enterprise and Jobs Fair.

The event was held at the Central Library and organised by Luton Borough Council in partnership with Jobcentre Plus.

Luton's Mayor, Cllr Don Worthington, opened the event,

supported by the council's executive member for Regeneration, Cllr Roy Davis and Luton North MP Kelvin Hopkins. The trio then toured the event to encourage and support attendees and stallholders.

From the start the venue was busy with people taking

advantage of the face-to-face contact with representatives from a wide range of training, education, volunteering, employer and other organisations.

Cllr Davis said: "I was delighted and encouraged to see so many people at the event. The influence of the

partnership between Jobcentre Plus and the council certainly brought people in. We are delighted to offer help and support to so many people looking to improve their prospects through employment, self-employment and training, education and volunteering."

It's the business

Wates celebrating end of year results

CONSTRUCTION services company Wates, which has offices in Luton, has announced a robust set of Year End results.

Figures released by the firm to the year ended December 31, 2011, report a 13 per cent increase in turnover to £1,117 million, despite challenging trading conditions.

With £40.1 million profit before tax (down eight per cent on 2010), Wates ended the year with a healthy forward order book of circa £2 billion.

The company had a cash balance of £132.1 million and strengthened its balance sheet, with shareholders' funds increasing to £64.3 mil-

lion. Significant project wins for the Luton offices include the new sporting and aquatic centre 'Inspire: Luton Sports Village'.

Wates' Ian Vickers, managing director for the Home Counties, said: "Our focus for the next financial year will be to continue growing our market share across the public and private sectors, with a particular focus on education, frameworks and the commercial and retail sectors, through high-quality project wins."

"This strategy is underpinned by our long-term commitment to the industry as a financially stable partner, as well as our close collab-

oration with our customers, supply chain partners and people."

"As a family-owned business now in its fourth generation, we understand the importance of making a lasting difference to the communities in which we work, and our strong financial position reflects our focus on legacy, responsibility and sustainability, as well as our ongoing investment in staff development and training."

This year Wates was named Business in the Community's Company of the Year and was awarded a Queen's Award for Enterprise in Sustainable Development.

Company moves from Norwich to Dunstable

A MANUFACTURER and distributor of cabling infrastructure products and telephone components has relocated to Dunstable.

Funis has moved from Norwich and taken on four new staff following an acquisition by Hockfree, part of the Monogram

Group. Along with other members of Monogram, Funis is an established supplier of the railways, marine, emergency services, PA and medical telephone systems markets.

New Funis managing director Simon Green said: "Our existing

customer base of approximately 400 companies will not experience any difference in service quality. Over time, we plan to expand and improve its offering while employing new people in line with business growth."

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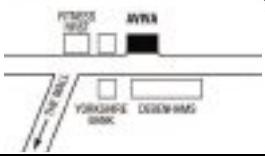
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IN a bid to improve service and streamline operations, Gibbs & Dandy has made a significant investment into a new computer system.

The company, whose head office is in Luton, has invested in the technology to deliver improved front-end service to customers, while managing its internal operational processes.

Following a three-month changeover period, the new system is now fully implemented, and the merchant is already noticing reduced waiting times in store, as well as easier account handling and management processes.

Tania Tams, the merchant's marketing director, said: "The changes have made a dramatic difference to the speed and effectiveness of our trade counter service. While, behind the scenes, there is improved communication and resource sharing, which has streamlined wastage and time management. "Despite a challenging economy, we felt it was important to invest now for our future success and stability, and we're confident that the changes we've implemented today, will have a positive impact on our customer's and our own business outlook."

'Budget not one for small firms'

SMALL businesses across Luton will see very little change after the budget, according to a tax and accountancy specialist.

Mark Sivakumar, who runs TaxAssist Accountants in Luton, responded to Chancellor George Osborne's (*pictured*) budget on March 21.

He said: "We knew there was very little scope for the Chancellor, but this was not a budget for sole traders and small firms across Luton who are the backbone of our local community.

"The cut in corporation tax to 24 per cent only applies to firms with profits of over £300,000. The majority of small businesses will have nowhere near that figure, but there is no cut in the 20 per cent rate they pay.

"For trades people and service providers who make home visits, their cars and vans are a vital part of their service, not a luxury and they can't absorb the cost of fuel price increases."

duced the National Loan Guarantee Scheme, which offers low interest loans to small businesses.

And those looking for finance to start their business were offered the life-line of the Seed Enterprise Investment Scheme which launches next month.

"Extra funding to help construction firms build new homes will have knock-on benefits for many small businesses, such as builders, joiners, plumbers and electricians, who have been severely hit by the recession, but it was disappointing that there were no concessions on fuel duty.

"For trades people and service providers who make home visits, their cars and vans are a vital part of their service, not a luxury and they can't absorb the cost of fuel price increases."



Luton's tops for growth

THE Chamber of Commerce has welcomed a survey which said that Luton is one of the best places in England for business growth.

A total of 785 new businesses were set up in the town between 2010 and 2012, an average annual rise of 4.2 per cent - increasing from 9,354 to 10,139 - and the third highest in the country.

Brian Hibbert, chairman of Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce which includes Luton, said: "Across Bedfordshire, we're hearing from businesses that they are becoming more and more positive about the future.

"We're seeing fewer failures, with many businesses maintaining a steady path."

Cheryl Smart MBE, chief executive of the Chamber, said: "At the recent British Chambers of Commerce conference, Nick Clegg said there is a real need to foster greater optimism in the economy and results like these go some way to providing a foundation for cautious optimism at least. The key now is for the Government to create an environment that is hospitable to business growth through greater access to finance, concentration on improving infrastructure and easing of regulatory burdens."

The research by information analysts Experian, commissioned by the BBC, looked at growth and growth potential.

It suggested there was a high proportion of high-growth 'champion' businesses in the town which have the potential to prosper in the current financial and economic climate.

The businesses were judged as displaying a number of characteristics which could lead to significant growth in the future.

These included companies under ten years old and with fewer than 50 employees, firms with directors with entrepreneurial appetite, and those part of a wider corporate network.

Luton had an insolvency rate of 1.2 per cent last year which equates to 112 businesses.



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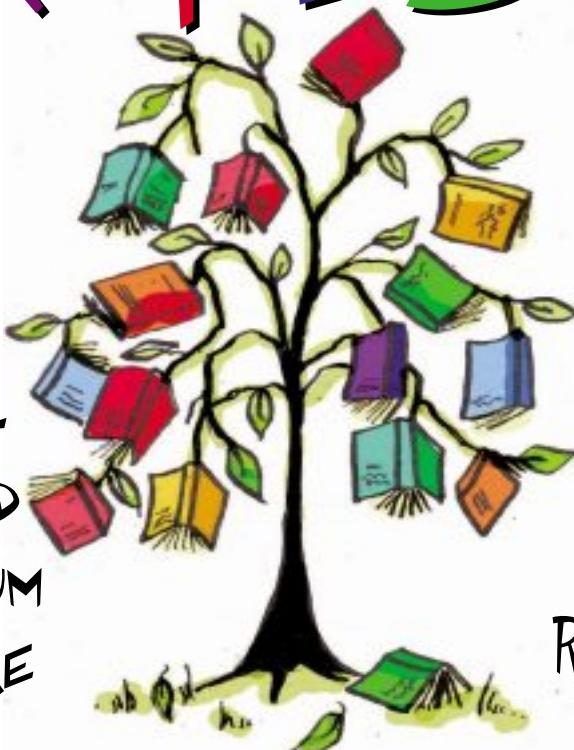
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- 2 Bedrooms
- 1 Bathrooms
- 1 Reception Room
- Large garden
- 1 garage(s)

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- 2 Reception Rooms
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- Large garden
- 3 off road parking

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Price £168,000

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- Garden

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- Garden

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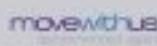
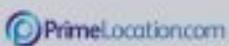
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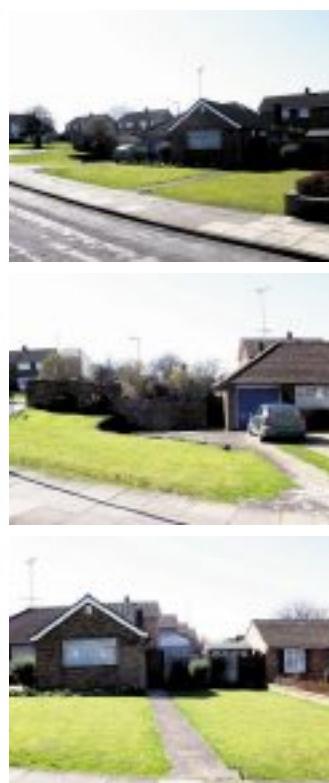
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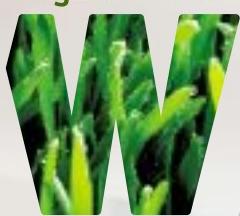
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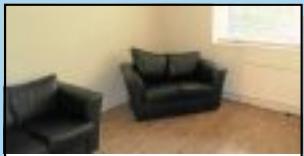
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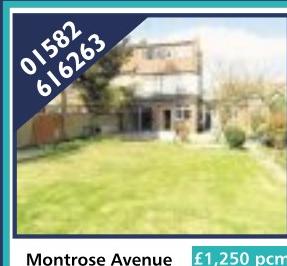
- Available Mid April Close To A5
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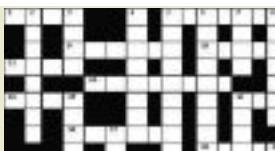
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Just for fun - the
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onpage45



leisure now

Fine dining and modern art in the capital

REVIEW

EARTH HOUR EVENT

The Park Plaza Victoria Hotel, London

EARTH HOUR might have come and gone unnoticed where you were last Saturday but at the Park Plaza Victoria Hotel, London, between 8.15 and 9.30pm, the event was marked in the most beautiful and stylish manner.

Tapering candles flickered on five-prong candelabras, placed around the dining room when the lights were switched off, as part of the global environmental campaign for action on climate change.

Dining by candlelight is magic at any time; dining by candlelight at the Park Plaza Victoria was bliss.

Unlike so many hotel restaurants, the food in the award-winning JB's is terrific; top quality ingredients that are creatively put together then beautifully cooked and presented.

Juicy huge seared scallops on a bed of asparagus and the tenderest of smoked breast of duck scattered with pine nuts - our starters - were delicious.

A grilled fillet steak and melt-in-the-mouth poached halibut, the main courses, were spared the indignity of being over-fussily prepared or drowned in over-powering sauces.

Their natural, excellent flavours, alongside fresh, perfectly cooked vegetables, were testament to a talented chef in a top quality kitchen.

But London, SW1, is a bit far to go to enjoy fine dining, isn't it?

Not if you are on a weekend break in the capital, it's not.

More and more of us are enjoying the occasional citybreak, taking in the sights, a show, an exhibition or even the really guilty pleasure of a spot of retail therapy.

And if you are going to make an occasion of it, then the best way to do it is to stay somewhere special.

The Park Plaza Victoria is that perfect combination of affordable luxury in a location that is convenient for many of London's top tourist attractions.



STAY IN THE CITY: The Victoria Park Plaza Hotel, above, with one of its rooms, inset. Pictured right is Picasso's Weeping Woman

tions. And, let's face it, if you are staying in the design capital of the world, it would be a shame to find yourself in some hick backwater of a hotel.

Contemporary works of art and stylish decor mark out the interior of the Park Plaza as a chic cosmopolitan place to stay. All of which could be mildly intimidating for those of us who live in Bedfordshire's back of beyond except that the staff are delightful - friendly, helpful and not in the least bit London-centrally snooty.

If you're keen on contemporary art then the rest of the good news is: Tate Britain is only a ten minute walk

away from the hotel. The current exhibition, Picasso and Modern British Art, isn't easy viewing but it's a fascinating lesson in 20th century art history and well worth taking on the challenge.

It took critics and collectors years to make up their minds about Picasso. More than 70 years after his work finally went on show to the public in this country it still has the power to shock.

He set the rules - and then changed them, over and over again. His influence on British artists during the 20th century was profound but, as this exhibition so clearly shows, they

never quite caught up with or matched his extraordinary talent and energy.

This show would probably appeal to the 'I know what I like and I like what I know' brigade and give plenty of ammunition to those of the 'my grandson could do better than that' school of thought but for the crowds visiting the exhibition last weekend it was a humdinger of an experience; thought-provoking, eye-opening

and, when it comes to studying paintings such as the agonisingly moving portrait, Weeping Woman (1937), quite frankly, mind-blowing.

JUDY RILEY



Info Station

CONVENIENTLY located near Victoria Station The Park Plaza Victoria (239 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EQ) has 287 air-conditioned deluxe guestrooms comprising superior and executive rooms and suites, plus 12 one and two bedroom apartments. The hotel also offers a fitness suite, steam room, sauna and a range of massage and beauty treatments.

For more information call 020 7769 9999 or visit: www.ParkPlaza.com/ VictoriaLondon

■ Picasso and Modern British Art is at Tate Britain (Millbank, London SW1P 4RG) until July 15, 2012. For more details call: 020 7887 8888 or visit: www.tate.org.uk

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Isaiah 55:1-2

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

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Easter Sunday and Monday 8 & 9 April
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Admission

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Some activities within the site will incur an extra charge

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6-7TH APRIL

Alice in Wonderland Easter Tea Party

Alice & friends performing on stage, plus Easter Market, activities & demonstrations

Entrance excluding House: £8 per person;
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Choice	BBC1	BBC2	ITV1	Channel 4	Channel 5	Digital
	6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 Easter Day Eucharist from Coventry Cathedral. Live service led by the Bishop of Coventry. 11.00 Urbi et Orbi. Live coverage of the Pope's Easter message. 11.35 Country Tracks: (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. 12.35 Regional Programmes. 1.35 BBC News. 1.45 Human Planet. (R) 2.45 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out. (R) 3.10 Film: Mary Poppins. (1964) Disney musical fantasy, with Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke. (R) 2.25 Songs of Praise.	6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. 11.35 Great British Menu. (R) 12.35 Film: A Distant Trumpet. (1964) Western, starring Troy Donahue. 2.30 Cycling: World Championships. Highlights from the Hisense Arena in Melbourne. 5.00 The Many Faces of Dame Judi Dench. Charting the actress's rise to fame. (R)	6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 Ade in Britain. (R) 10.30 May the Best House Win. (R) 11.30 Matt Cardle: Into the Light. (R) 12.30 ITV News; Weather. 12.35 Britain's Got Talent. (R) 1.50 The Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) 2.15 The Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) 2.45 This Is Lionel Richie. (R) 3.45 Film: The Mummy. (1999)	6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show. (R) 7.35 Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Hannah Cockroft – Part Two. (R) 7.40 Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. (R) 8.05 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Fraser. (R) 9.30 Fraser. (R) 10.00 Sunday Brunch. 12.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 12.55 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.25 The Simpsons. (R) 1.55 The Simpsons. (R) 2.30 Film: Dr Dolittle. (1998) Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. 4.05 Time Team. (R) 5.10 Channel 4 News. 5.15 4thought.tv. 5.20 Come Dine with Me. Four hosts compete for the £1,000 prize in east Lancashire. (R)	6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) 6.15 City of Friends. (R) 6.25 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) 6.40 Igam Ogam. (R) 6.50 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.00 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.25 Thomas & Friends Special: Day of the Diesels. (R) 8.15 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 8.25 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 The Mr Men Show. (R) 9.25 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.40 Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) 10.00 Film: High School Musical 3: Senior Year. (2008) Teen musical sequel, starring Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens. 12.05 London: The Inside Story. (R) 1.05 Film: Lawrence of Arabia. (1962) Oscar-winning epic drama directed by David Lean, starring Peter O'Toole. 5.15 5 News Weekend. 5.20 Film: Toy Story. (1995) Pixar animated adventure, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.	6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) 6.15 City of Friends. (R) 6.25 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) 6.40 Igam Ogam. (R) 6.50 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.00 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.25 Thomas & Friends Special: Day of the Diesels. (R) 8.15 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 8.25 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 The Mr Men Show. (R) 9.25 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.40 Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) 10.00 Film: High School Musical 3: Senior Year. (2008) Teen musical sequel, starring Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens. 12.05 London: The Inside Story. (R) 1.05 Film: Lawrence of Arabia. (1962) Oscar-winning epic drama directed by David Lean, starring Peter O'Toole. 5.15 5 News Weekend. 5.20 Film: Toy Story. (1995) Pixar animated adventure, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.
THE ONE & ONLY DES O'CONNOR ITV1, 7.30pm	6.00 Titanic with Len Goodman. A visit to the Belfast building where the ship was designed. (R) 6.30 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. 7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker marks the 200th anniversary of the Monmouth and Brecon canal. 8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team return to Wimbledon. 9.00 Silent Witness. Part one of two. Nikki stumbles upon a sinister underworld of sex grooming and teenage prostitution. 10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather. 10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including action from Arsenal v Manchester City. 11.25 MotoGP. Action from the Qatar Grand Prix. 12.55 Weatherview. 1.00 Sign Zone: The Diamond Queen. (R) 2.00 Holby City. (R) 3.00 A History of Ancient Britain Special: Orkney's Stone Age Temple. (R) 4.00 BBC News.	6.00 Frozen Planet. Highlights of the series in which David Attenborough takes viewers on a journey through the polar year, from the depths of winter to the melting world of the summer. (R) 7.00 Golf: The Masters Live. Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the fourth and final day at the Augusta National in Georgia, where the winner of the first Major of the year is set to be decided. Subsequent programmes subject to change. 12.00 Twenty Twelve. Conclusion. The Algerians issue the team with a deadline to find a solution to their demand – and the French threaten to pull out of the Games. Comedy, starring Hugh Bonneville. (R) 12.30 Film: Deadline. (2009) Premiere. A writer retreats to a remote house after a breakdown, only to discover a secret that threatens to change her life for ever. Horror, with Brittany Murphy and Thora Birch. 1.50 BBC News. 3.00 The Super League Show. Tanya Arnold introduces highlights of the latest Super League matches, including St Helens v Wigan Warriors, Hull FC v Hull Kingston Rovers and Warrington Wolves v Widnes Vikings. 4.00 Close.	6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.15 ITV News: Weather. 6.30 All Star Family Fortunes. New series. Reality TV star Mark Wright and Loose Women's Jane McDonald take part. 7.30 The One & Only Des O'Connor. Marking his 80th birthday and 50 years in showbusiness, the entertainer is joined by guests including Matt Lucas, Paul O'Grady and Olly Murs for chat, surprises and performances. 9.00 Titanic. New waiter Paolo is instantly smitten with cabin steward Annie, Barnes finds Watson loitering in steerage and Jim is furious when wife Mary lets her guard down with Peter Lubov. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.15 Perspectives: Sergeant on Spike. John Sergeant presents a profile of Spike Milligan. 11.15 The Cube. A woman puts her knowledge of the games to the test. (R)	12.00 FILM: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel. (2009) Premiere. Comedy, starring Zachary Levi and Jason Lee. 8.00 Celebrity Deal or No Deal. New series. Jimmy Carr takes part in the game show, trying to guess the value of mystery boxes to win up to £250,000 for his chosen charity. Hosted by Noel Edmonds. 9.00 Homeland. Carrie and Saul learn that Walker is alive. 10.00 Crucifixion. Gunther von Hagens' project to create a crucifix. 11.20 FILM: Lake Placid. (1999) Comedy horror, starring Bill Pullman. 1.00 Film: 21 Grams. (2003) Drama, starring Sean Penn. 3.00 The Lobster Club. (R) 3.05 Crash, Bang, Wallow. (R) 3.10 Hollyoaks. (R) 5.20 Countdown. (R) 12.10 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.30 River Monsters. (R) 3.25 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.	6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. 6.05 Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) 6.15 City of Friends. (R) 6.25 Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) 6.40 Igam Ogam. (R) 6.50 Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) 7.00 Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) 7.25 Thomas & Friends Special: Day of the Diesels. (R) 8.15 Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) 8.25 Angelina Ballerina. (R) 8.45 Rupert Bear. (R) 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 9.15 The Mr Men Show. (R) 9.25 Roary the Racing Car. (R) 9.40 Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) 10.00 Film: Gladiator. (2000)	ITV2 2.10 Film: Happy Feet (2006) 4.15 Britain's Got Talent 5.30 Britain's Got More Talent 6.30 Film: Jurassic Park. (1993) 9.00 Bedtime. Joyce tries to impress the hotel inspector. Last in the series. 10.00 Film: Gladiator (2000)
ITV4 11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Rajasthan Royals v Kolkata Knight Riders and Pune Warriors v Kings XI Punjab. 8.00 Minder. Arthur and Terry pursue a devious crook. 9.00 Film: Highlander. (1986) Fantasy adventure, starring Christopher Lambert. 11.20 Film: Death Wish 2 (1981)	BBC THREE 7.00 The Voice UK. 8.20 Film: Shrek the Third (2007) 9.45 Russell Howard's Good News Extra 10.30 Family Guy	BBC FOUR 7.00 Ray Mears Goes Walkabout. 9.00 Film: Strictly Ballroom. (1992) Australian dance comedy, starring Paul Mercurio. 10.30 Passion in Port Talbot: It Has Begun. 11.30 Angelic Voices: The Choristers of Salisbury Cathedral	E4 2.25 Film: See Spot Run (2001) 4.10 Ugly Betty 6.00 90210 6.55 Film: Footloose (1984) 9.00 Desperate Housewives 11.00 Made in Chelsea	FILM4 3.05 James and the Giant Peach (1996) 4.40 Big (1988) 6.35 Hairspray (2007) Musical comedy, starring Nikki Blonsky and John Travolta. 9.00 Coming to America. (1988) Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. 11.20 Dawn of the Dead (2004)		

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In association with South East Midlands Area MVT



Saturday 19th May 2012

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3 course silver served wartime dinner. Doors open 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start Advance Tickets only! Tickets £35.00pp by calling 01296 655720



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Club's back from break

WHAT'S ON

CLOUD COMEDY - LLOYD LANGFORD

The Hat Factory, Bute Street, Luton
Thursday, 8pm

CLOUD Comedy returns to the Hat Factory after their winter break with a tasty line-up to tickle your comedy taste buds.

This month's instalment of giggles features regular panellist from BBC's 'Ask Rhod Gilbert', Lloyd Langford, with his ever-evolving mixture of personal anecdotes, memorable one-liners and topical material.

Other TV appearances include The Comedy Store (Comedy Central), Russell Howard's Good News (BBC3), and Dave's One Night Stand (Dave). And if that wasn't enough, also gracing the comedy stage is The Football Ramble's Jim Campbell.

All the night's funnies will be held together by Cloud Comedy's resident MC, Ben Van Der Velde.

Tickets cost £7 and can be bought by calling the box office on 01582 878100.

Renowned choir in gala concert



MUSIC

LONDON WELSH MALE VOICE CHOIR

COGIC Centre, Dunstable Road, Luton
April 28, 6.15pm

THE Internationally famous London Welsh Male Voice Choir is returning to Luton for a charity gala concert.

The event will be held at the COGIC Centre in Dunstable Road, Luton, formerly the Odeon Cinema and will be raising funds for Keech Hospice Care for Children and Adults as they celebrate their 21st Anniversary.

They will also be raising funds for the work in the church, Calvary Church of God in Christ which own the centre.

The building has been extensively refurbished and redecorated to a very high standard and as well as an ideal place for worship, it lends itself to a Concert Hall with over 1,000 seats.

Hospice supporter Paul Denton, who is helping with the organisation, said: "The Welsh Choir is looking forward to returning to Luton and singing at the Centre for this Charity event."

Marshalled car parking is being provided with some spaces available at nearby Sainsbury's, Bury Park. These can be reserved when tickets are purchased.

Tickets are priced at £16, (£10 for children under 13) and are available from the Church Office, 127 Dunstable Road, Luton, or by calling 01582 877070 or Paul Denton on 01582 507285. You can also email tickets@choirconcert.co.uk

Plenty of entertainment in countryside event

WHAT'S ON

STOCKWOOD COUNTRY FAIR

Stockwood Discovery Centre

Today and tomorrow, 11am-4.30pm

ENJOY a taste of the countryside at Luton Culture's Country Fair.

There's something for everyone, from fabulous food to archery and animal encounters.

Visit the farmers' market and indulge yourself; choose from a delicious range of local fresh produce, including cheese, meats, cakes and much more.

Browse local craft and gift stalls, from books and vintage clothing to jewellery and handmade cards, you will be sure to

find the perfect gift or little treat for yourself.

See birds of prey at their most exciting when you visit the amazing falconry display, marvel at the aerobatic skills and precision hunting ability.

There are plenty of activities for the children too. Feeling creative? Why not have a go at fun Easter activities in the crafts marquee.

Be sure to look out for Dexter the Dragon, Luton Culture's Dragon Club mascot, entertaining the crowds. Visit the Cuddle-Me-Do enclosure for a safe, educational and enjoyable, furry farmyard encounter.

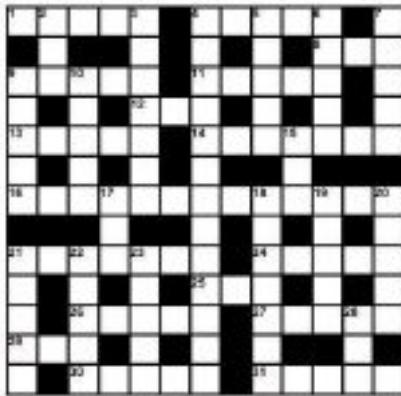
See all your favourite farm animals, including lambs, rabbits and chickens. If

the kids still have bags of energy and want something more active why not have a bounce on the bouncy castle or take aim and have some sporting fun for all the family with an archery expert, see who can get closest to the bullseye.

After a busy time visiting all the stalls and demonstrations, why not refresh yourself with something tasty from the barbecue or the Garden Café?

Tickets cost £3 for adults (£2.50 for concessions and for those with a Culture Card), and £1.50 for children, under fives go free, and admission is for one day only. Some activities are subject to an additional charge. To book tickets or find out more information, contact 01582 548600 or visit www.lutonculture.com

PUZZLE CORNER



ACROSS

- 1 Monk hasn't a clue (5)
- 4 Better when copper coloured (5)
- 5 Some feel more wooden (3)
- 7 Native goes round Post Office to measure (3)
- 11 Oven broken – left to get something new (5)
- 12 Equipment to cut small cat in half (3)
- 13 Broke a leg, far from this (3)
- 14 Work machinery to do surgery (7)
- 16 Showing emotion, strive to mend a relationship (12)
- 21 Take a look behind beige coloured binn (7)
- 24 Getting on with drink in silver earthenware (5)
- 25 Go on horse (3)
- 26 Way in I've negotiated with composer (5)
- 27 Villain to go back in French way (5)
- 28 Said to be writing here for a to (3)
- 33 Start again while the others take drug (5)
- 34 A heap of mud? No problem (5)

DOWN

- 2 Old toy is best in class (3)
- 3 Granddad enthusiastic in the buff (7)
- 4 Iron collar (it's scratchy) – he'll fold (13)
- 5 We're told to look over some scratches (3)
- 6 Dotted I omitted from plan of river mouth (5)
- 7 Some change involving king in a cloud (5)
- 8 Get up to the display (5)
- 9 I'm going round bend after surgery – it's the drug (5)
- 15 Tedious situation where deer get frosty (2)
- 17 Mexico a foot, certainly (3)
- 18 Army man is one of these (7)
- 19 perform vocally – it's tapping (5)
- 20 Day beforehead by golf shot (5)
- 21 Sock for men going to church (5)
- 22 Mostify verify a note (5)
- 23 Space travel scene (5)
- 28 Starts using really nice pet (3)

SU DOKU								
1	6			9				
	7		8	1				
6						3		
7	3		5					
	8			9	2			
		1	3			4	7	
7							5	
		4	7		6			
	9			2		8		

Complete the grid so that all rows, columns and 3x3 boxes contain the numbers 1 to 9.
Solution next week.



Nº	7	-	9
Fun!	+	9	÷
35	2	x	3

Use all the numbers and signs to make the star total. Do calculations in strict order from left to right with no brackets - eg $7+2 \times 9-3=24$

Last week: $8-3 \times 6+1+1=31$

FIND THE WORDS

D	M	E	B	L	I	F	F	U	L	E	N	B
U	E	H	L	E	N	U	D	F	K	B	C	A
N	S	E	I	O	L	M	N	I	U	E	A	R
I	F	D	T	L	E	F	P	A	K	L	E	R
L	A	U	O	S	L	W	E	C	T	L	B	O
E	G	N	A	R	K	R	O	M	S	O	U	N
M	K	K	O	B	M	E	R	E	D	R	W	V
U	C	C	P	C	M	N	H	R	R	K	A	K
R	E	P	R	U	A	C	S	U	C	A	L	C
D	I	A	H	A	E	M	B	M	L	B	O	O
E	N	B	R	K	G	L	B	O	E	O	O	M
W	O	R	A	B	I	O	L	D	U	N	C	U
M	A	S	E	N	T	P	E	J	P	O	K	H

Find the words: Up, down, forwards, backwards, straight or diagonal. This week: Hills, Fall, Tor, Pike, Drumlin, Crest, Ben, Kopore, Knob, Buff, Mesa, Lava, Hill, Range, Scarf, Beacon, Dune, Husk, Barrow, Cap, Brae

QUICKSOLVE?

- ACROSS
- 2 Danger (9)
 - 5 Paved area (5)
 - 6 Indigenous (8)
 - 7 Calm (5)
 - 8 Yell (5)
 - 10 Stand (8)
 - 12 Buffer (5)
 - 14 Magistrate (6)
 - 15 Lukewarm (5)
 - 16 False (6)

- DOWN
- 1 Stom (4)
 - 2 Trubul (6)
 - 3 Living (5)
 - 4 Idealist (7)
 - 7 Lab kit (7)
 - 9 Fluffy cloth (6)
 - 11 Ear bone (5)
 - 13 Ono (4)

A	S	N	O	S	A
O	G	E	S	N	E
C	A	E	E	L	E
O	L	T	I	N	E
C	F	A	G	N	A
O	N	A	I	V	A
S	E	O	D	M	A

MATCH FIVE

Arrange all the five letter words, can you find the five that appear in both grids? (Horizon, backword, up, down, straight or diagonal).

T	A	B	O	M	B	E
R	M	A	S	O	N	C
A	O	M	I	A	L	C
I	T	L	L	A	I	E
N	S	P	S	D	A	R
A	U	S	E	N	E	E
M	G	R	A	B	S	S

R		B	A	I	N	W
E						
E						
O						
R		S	T	R	A	I

How many words of four letters or more can you make? No plurals, proper nouns or foreign words. All must include the centre letter. Grid: 19. Master: 24+

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**Family Worker**

An experienced Family Worker is required to positively engage parents/carers, children and their families in children's learning and development. Qualified to at least level 3 CCLD or equivalent you will have experience of working closely with families and in partnership with other professionals. Home visiting, child protection and safeguarding experience is essential.

37.5 hours Mon - Fri between 8am - 6pm
Part time Children's Centre Support Worker

To work with the Children's Centre staff team to support the delivery of high quality services to improve outcomes for young children and their families. Qualified to at least level 3 in CCLD or equivalent.

18 hours Mon - Fri flexible hours between 8am - 4pm.
Both posts are fixed term contracts to March 31 2013

Closing date 16.04.2012

For more information and application forms please contact by email levseychildren@tiscali.co.uk or 01582 603785 An Enhanced CRB check will be required for both posts. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

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Barnfield is a Beacon College graded 'Outstanding' by Ofsted. The Barnfield Federation is an Investor in People (Gold) Champion. The Federation consists of Barnfield College, South and West Academies, Studio School and Barnfield Moorlands Free School. The Federation is expanding further in 2012 with four other academy schools planned. If you like working in a dynamic, forward-thinking organisation why not join our outstanding and innovative team so that we continue to set the standard.

Barnfield
Setting the Standard



Vacancies at Barnfield Moorlands Free School, Luton

- **Key Stage 2 Classroom Teachers**
- **Classroom Teaching Assistants**
- **Playground Supervisors**
- **Extended Learning Team Assistants**

Closing date: Monday 16 April 2012

Start date: 31 August 2012

For further information and to apply for any of the above positions please go to:

<http://college.barnfield.ac.uk/Job2.aspx>

If you require assistance with the online application please contact us on:

Human Resources: 01582 569 812
Email: recruitment@barnfield.ac.uk

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Events Planner and Coordinator

£18,600 - £22,950pa

(with an opportunity for an exceptional candidate of up to £25,000pa)

An exciting opportunity has arisen at The Mansion House for an Events Planner and Coordinator.

You will manage and run all operational aspects relating to public events whilst ensuring the highest standards of service are achieved.

The ideal candidate must have comprehensive knowledge and previous experience of events management and coordination.



Closing Date: Monday 23 April 2012

The Mansion House, Old Warden Park, is owned by BCS Ltd, a subsidiary of Bedford College.

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BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Bedford Borough Council takes great care to recruit the very best people so that the services we provide to our community are first class. We believe that the best work gets done in an environment that's enjoyable and which values, supports and encourages the development of its employees. In return we expect our employees to work hard and be committed to help us achieve our vision and share our values.

Adult and Community Services

Senior Community Support Worker

£25,472 - £28,636 • Quote ref: P000814

Permanent • Full-time

Hearing Impairment Team

For an informal discussion please contact Julie Edwards on 01234 276380 and Alison Low on 01234 718318.

Closing date: 23rd April 2012.

Change Manager Support Officer

£22,221 - £24,646 • Quote ref: 0003540

1 year • Full-time • Fixed-term

For an informal discussion please contact Jenny McAtter on 01234 228646.

Closing date: 23rd April 2012.

Interview date: will be held in May 2012.

For full job details visit www.bedford.gov.uk or contact the Recruitment Team on 01234 228082 or email: Recruitment.Team@bedford.gov.uk

Posts working with children and/or vulnerable adults will be subject to the disclosure of criminal records.

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Cleansing Technician

Barnfield West Academy, Leagrave High Street, Luton

L1B (£6.83 per hour) - (27.5 hours a week, 41 weeks per year)

Monday to Friday – 9.30am to 3.30pm

The post holder will be responsible for carrying out a range of cleaning operations to prescribed standards as instructed by the Site Supervisor. They will also be responsible for clearing and removing rubbish.

The successful candidate should be able to remain calm in a pressurised environment.

Closing date for applications: 12pm, Friday 27th April 2012

For further details and an application pack, please contact, Jane Young:

T: 01582 601 221 E:j.young@west.acad.barnfield.ac.uk

or visit www.west.barnfield.ac.uk/vacancies.aspx
Due to the Easter Holidays, application packs can be obtained directly from the Academy's Reception or downloaded directly from our website.

Barnfield is an equal opportunities employer. We are committed to safeguarding. Enhanced CRB disclosure required.

www.barnfield.ac.uk

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School Appointments
Beecroft Lower School
● CLASS TEACHER
MPS (Quote ref: 2851)
Full-time

Central Bedfordshire

We require a Teacher, for September 2012, who is passionate about the education of young children and is able to provide a high quality educational experience for all.

The staff and governors at Beecroft Lower School are looking for applicants who will work tirelessly in order to attain high standards in learning and teaching, whilst building children's self-esteem and inspiring them, in order that they reach their full potential.

● CO-ORDINATOR FOR BUZZ BEES CARE CLUB
£16,054 - £17,161 pa, pro rata (Quote ref: 2852)

Part-time, 15.5 hours per week,
07:55 - 08:55 and 15:30 - 18:00

Temporary contract, one year in the first instance

Beecroft Lower School requires a Care Club Co-ordinator. You will be required to lead and manage an exciting, safe and homely environment that is offered to the children at Beecroft before and after school, at 'Buzz Bees Care Club'. You will be required to carry out a range of tasks, you will need to plan, prepare and implement a range of leisure activities for children aged four to nine years and ensure that the children are looked after effectively.

You will need to:

- Like children
- Be passionate about the role
- Work tirelessly to build children's self-esteem and inspire them
- Ensure that children have an enjoyable and relaxed time in the Care Club
- Be organised and well prepared
- Lead and manage other staff and the Care Club provision.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our supportive and friendly team, then please contact the school to arrange a visit. Visits are warmly welcomed.

For more information and to apply for both roles please visit www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/jobs alternatively please contact Helen Smith on 01582 663486 or email: h.smith@cbc.beds.sch.uk

Closing date for both roles: 25 April 2012 at 12noon
Interview date for both roles: To be confirmed.

Posts working with either children and/or vulnerable adults will be subject to the disclosure of criminal records.

Central Bedfordshire Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all employees, volunteers and contractors to share this commitment.



We are committed to equal opportunities.

Monarch
AIRCRAFT ENGINEERING

Apprenticeship in Aircraft Maintenance - Luton

For over 40 years Monarch Aircraft Engineering has been proud of its reputation for producing the highest calibre engineers through its trainee schemes, many of whom now work in key areas throughout the world of aviation. Being determined to maintain their position for being the best airline Maintenance Repair Organisation in Europe and in order to support continued growth, Monarch Aircraft Engineering is delighted to announce the launch of its apprenticeship scheme for 2012.

Successful applicants will initially study for 17 weeks to gain an NVQ Level 2 Diploma in Performing Engineering Operations. Upon completion of the NVQ there will be a number of places available on our four year vocational scheme which will provide practical training on aircraft mechanical systems by working alongside highly skilled mentors who are prepared to pass on their knowledge and experience. Our trainees will be working with the best - to become the best!

The applicants who are selected to progress onto the 4 year scheme will also receive theory training on aircraft mechanical systems to the EASA 'A' licence standard and will also complete the various elements that make up the City and Guilds NVQ Level 3 Apprenticeship in Aeronautical Engineering.

Minimum entry level requirements for applicants are to have or be expected to achieve 4 GCSEs at grade A*- C (or equivalent), which will include Maths, English, Science and one other subject. Applicants should be advised the recruitment process will include an element of manual dexterity testing. Monarch will seek out people with a positive, customer facing and outward looking attitude and will recruit only those who are prepared to make a significant commitment to their own development and career.

Please apply attaching your CV and a full covering letter via the link to our on-line recruitment system at www.monarchaircraftengineering.com/careers/jobs searching for vacancy number IRC508. Closing date: 20th April 2012.

www.luton.gov.uk/jobs

Personal Advisor

£26,276 - £28,636 per annum pro rata

Maternity Cover - 22 hours per week

You will work with young people in Luton to help them achieve the 5 Every Child Matters Outcomes and reduce the number of young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment and Training). You will work one to one and with groups, preparing and planning group sessions on a variety of topics to offer information, advice and guidance on the range of services available and interview them to establish their aspirations, discussing possible careers options.

You must possess a Level 4 qualification in Advice and Guidance or NVQ 4 in Learning Development and Support Services or Diploma in Careers Guidance Parts 1 and 2 or Qualification in Careers Guidance plus NVQ 4 units to apply for this post.

Closing date: 12 April 2012.

Ref: 12/0136

Support Team Officer (RCC Officer)

£18,453 - £20,198 per annum

You will provide a front line customer interface as part of a responsive repairs control centre ensuring "right first time" completion of repairs for a range of customers, whilst actively contributing to the achievement of the wider Housing Landlord aims, operational objective and future state.

Duties include supplying 'back office' administration support to the Building and Technical Services division in order to assist the delivery of a high quality, customer focussed and continuously improving service.

With experience of dealing with front line enquiries from members of the public, you should have the ability to communicate effectively and politely, in writing and verbally, with a range of people including customers, internal colleagues and external agencies, along with the ability to work to procedures, guidelines and targets/deadlines. You must also be able to use computer technologies including word processing, spreadsheet e-mail, databases etc as well as having the ability to work on own initiative within guidelines, planning, prioritising and organising work.

Closing date: 12 April 2012.

Ref: 12/0135

Apply now online at www.luton.gov.uk/jobs if you experience problems applying online, please call (01582) 546621 during office hours.

Please quote appropriate reference number.

The Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff to share this commitment.

We value equality because quality services need the best people - from the whole community.

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Public Notices**THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (STRANGERS WAY) (TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE) ORDER 2012**

NOTICE is hereby given that on 2nd April 2012 Luton Borough Council, the Highway Authority for the said Borough, made the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

The Order will come into operation 4th April 2012 and cease operation after 15th April 2012 or when the proposed works have been completed, whichever is the earlier. Specific times and dates will be signed locally. The Order will therefore be in operation when signs are displayed.

The effect of the Order will allow the Council to close to traffic the road and length of road in the schedule below. The Order is intended to create a window for the works to be done and it is anticipated that the works will be completed over a period within the dates described above.

The purpose of the Order is to enable installation of a raised table traffic calming feature with pedestrian crossing point.

Access will be maintained as best as possible to properties where this may be done safely whilst such works are being carried out and diversions of traffic will be marked by signs.

8th April 2012
 Graham Turner, Highway Services Manager
 Town Hall Luton LU1 2BQ

SCHEDULE

ROAD	LENGTH OF ROAD
Strangers Way	From outside of the boundary line of No.68 Strangers Way and Leagrave Primary School to its junction with the Hockwell Ring roundabout.

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2005 05 FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC SILVER, 74883 Miles, ABS, Alloy wheels, c/l, Immobiliser, CD, PAS £3,495



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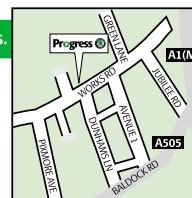
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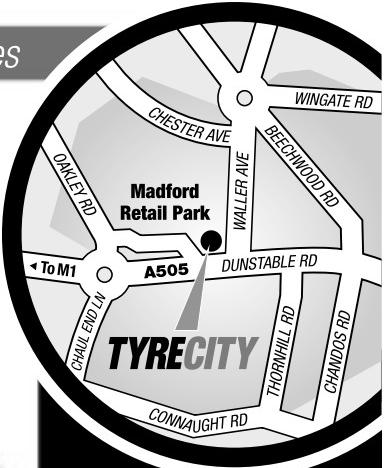


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Neilson slams poor Town as they Buckle under gaze of new boss

BY LAUREN ARCHELL

lauren.archell@lutonsunday.com

CARETAKER manager Alan Neilson hit out at Luton Town's players yesterday, saying don't deserve to be in the play-offs, following their 3-1 defeat at Braintree Town.

Under the watchful eye of new manager Paul Buckle, who will take control of the club for the game at home to Hayes & Yeading tomorrow, Luton Town dropped yet more vital points after slumping to their second successive league loss.

The Hatters struggled against a physical home side, and although Andre Gray cancelled out an early Adam Bailey-Dennis strike, the part-timers sealed the win with second half goals from Sean Marks and a 92nd minute Billy Gibson penalty.

Speaking after the result, which saw the Hatters slip to seventh in the Blue Square Bet Premier table, three points off the play-off pace, Neilson said: "It is extremely disappointing.

"Too many players lost their battles and the goals that we conceded were poor."

"After today's result we don't deserve to be in the top five."

"The only positive is that we only have to wait until Monday for the next game when the new gaffer will be in charge, we'll be in training tomorrow and hopefully we can bounce back straight away."

"There are six games left, and they have to be six cup finals. We've kept saying that but the players have got to show the desire and scrap for it, if they want it."

"The players have to realise the chance they've got, lots of the lads are out of contract at the end of the season and they've got to show they are good enough to play in the Football League and good enough to play in the Blue Square Bet Premier."

Luton made an awful start to the match allowing Braintree to take an early lead within the first five minutes.

As keeper Mark Tyler came out of his goal to catch an incoming free kick, unmarked centre back Bailey-Dennis was able to glance home a header.

However, the lead lasted just two minutes as Gray scored his third goal in three games after a well-timed run



HORROR SHOW: Luton Town Managing Director Gary Sweet (left) and new boss Paul Buckle share a joke in the stands at Braintree before yesterday's 3-1 defeat. In-form Andre Gray (inset) was the only highlight as he netted his third in three games

pics by Gareth Owen

into the area. The ball fell at his feet and he side-footed his effort cleanly past goalkeeper Nathan McDonald.

But the home side caused Luton a multitude of problems and the frail defence struggled to cope every time a long ball was launched forward to the tall strikers Marks and Ben Wright – who had a loan spell at Kenilworth Road in 2009.

Yet again the Hatters lacked a physical edge to their game and were bullied off the ball time and again by a powerful Iron side who had a goal ruled out on 20 minutes. Marks was away celebrating but the referee ruled it out for a push in the box.

It was a let off for Luton, who were lucky to make it to half time with the scores level following decent efforts from Aswad Thomas and Kenny Davies.

The Hatters now face Hayes &

The Hatters looked more comfortable after the restart as the formation changed to 4-4-2, with Jake Howells dropping back to a midfield role while the introduction of Godfrey Poku added a sterner dimension to the side.

Aaron O'Connor's six-yard effort should have been enough to put the side in front but keeper McDonald pulled off a fantastic one-handed save.

Braintree took the lead once again in the 70th minute when a free-kick blasted into the area found Marks, and he buried the chance.

A Gibson penalty in the 90th minute then capped off a woeful afternoon for the Hatters after Curtis Osano had scythed down Marks in the box.

The Hatters now face Hayes &

Yeading at home tomorrow afternoon (3pm).

Luton Town:

Mark Tyler, Keith Keane, George Pilkington, Alex Lawless (Stuart Fleetwood), Shane Blackett, Aaron O'Connor (Craig McAllister), Jake Howells, Andre Boucaud (Godfrey Poku), Curtis Osano, Andre Grey, Janos Kovacs

Unused subs: John Paul Kissock, Adam Watkins

Braintree Town:

Nathan McDonald, Aswad Thomas, Adam Bailey-Dennis, Matt Paine, Jai Reason, Kenny Davis, Sean Marks, Ben Wright (Brad Quinton), Pat O'Connor, Billy Gibson, Dean Wells

Unused subs: Ryan Peters, , Pete Haxell, Matt Pooley, Joel Appiah-Kubi

'Embarrassed' Blackett hopes for change in fortunes with new regime

■ continued from back
the 11 guys that walk across the line and do that job.

"We were surprised that Gary went, it is unfortunate and happens a lot in football nowadays."

"But the fans aired their views very publicly and the club has got to look after their own interests. If they've got to change the manager

for better results, that is what they've got to do."

Talking about the appointment of new manager Buckle, Blackett said: "I've never come across him in my career but I've heard good and encouraging things."

"Hopefully the response to having a new manager is that we start winning and

changing things. We haven't shown the new boss the best example today and we've got to put things right and get this club back to where it needs to be."

"I'm embarrassed and we've got to be better than that. It's up to us to get into the play-offs, grind it out, pull our socks up and do it properly. Caretaker manager Alan

Neilson also had positive things to say about the new boss.

He said: "I've met him before as we did coaching together."

"He's very intelligent, thinks about the game, and does lots of research into things."

"I had a two-hour meeting with him on Friday and I'm really looking forward to

working with him."

Asked if Buckle had any influence over the team selection for yesterday's defeat, Neilson said: "It was left to myself, [Paul] Carden, and Dimi [Dimitri Kharine]. "He will be in charge from Monday and will hopefully give us the spark we need to get to the play-offs and get to Wembley."

Go to www.luton-dunstable.co.uk for a report from tomorrow's Luton v Hayes game

Gaffer ready for 'huge challenge'

NEW Luton Town manager Paul Buckle has promised to do everything in his power to help guide the club back to the Football League this term.

The former Torquay and Bristol Rovers boss was announced as Gary Brabin's successor on Good Friday after penning a two-year deal.

However, the 41-year-old was not in charge for yesterday's 3-1 defeat at Braintree – with Alan Neilson and Paul Carden taking care of first team affairs. He will be officially unveiled today at 11am in a press conference and will then lead the side out for the first time against Hayes & Yeading United at Kenilworth Road tomorrow (3pm).

He now has six games to try to get Luton out of the 'non-league' through the play-offs this term. He done it two seasons ago with Torquay, ironically against former Hatters boss Gary Brabin's Cambridge United side in the final.

In his only comments so far, the new manager told the club's official website: "It's a huge challenge, a massive challenge – but not just for me, for us all."

"First and foremost, I've been in this position before and I hope the players can gain some confidence from that."

"I know there's a lot of pressure if they don't score early and I understand the problems there have been."

"However, we really need to grasp that we're in a strong position."

"We need to let the players know it's a golden opportunity in their hands."

Managing director Gary Sweet revealed that 100 applications had flooded in for the vacant role, and that Buckle was on a short-list of eight.

"Everything has fallen into place perfectly. We believe Paul is the right man, at the right time for Luton Town," Sweet said, adding: "This is an exciting time for everyone at a crucial point in our season, and all I ask is that our supporters get down to Kenilworth Road on Easter Monday to be a part of this new start for the club."

■ See www.luton-dunstable.co.uk later today for all the details from Buckle's first press conference

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
1 Fleetwood	42	31	8	3	99	41	58	101
2 Wrexham	41	28	6	7	76	27	49	90
3 Mansfield	42	21	14	7	77	46	31	77
4 York City	41	19	13	9	75	44	31	70
5 K'mminster	42	20	12	7	56	42	14	67
6 Southport	42	10	12	6	62	2	70	27
7 Luton Town	40	18	13	9	68	40	28	67
8 Gateshead	41	19	10	12	63	56	7	67
9 Grimsby	42	18	11	13	75	57	18	65



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HARD LINES: Luton's Tesh Edward (left) tries to track Ampthill's Gavin Williams in Wednesday's final with Matt Allen (inset)

Allen eyes change for Luton after cup defeat

RUGBY UNION

BY CARL MUNGABI
sport@lsmmedia.co.uk

LUTON Rugby Club have a rebuilding job ahead of them, backs coach Matt Allen has said.

The former Bedford Blues centre was speaking in the wake of Luton's 45-32 defeat to Ampthill in the final of the East Midlands Cup on Wednesday.

A bitterly cold night at his old stomping ground of Goldington Road saw the recently relegated Newlands Road side relinquish their hold of the trophy they won last year.

"We came into the game as underdogs and we had a few injuries from last week so the boys

that played did fantastically well," he said. "Of course we came here to win so we're disappointed but I think every one of the players involved did themselves proud."

"We've had a tough season this year so at least we can hold our heads high and start preparing for the next season."

Allen - who has enjoyed a successful career that included spells at Cardiff Blues and Northampton Saints, where he won a European Cup winner's medal - played for Luton last year but retired at the end of last season due to a serious back condition.

Now on Lutonians' backroom staff he hopes relegation from National Three London & South East will help give crucial experience to the younger players.

"We've been relegated and we need to cut our cloth accordingly," he said. "We want to build the squad with what we've got, we've got a number of local boys - something we haven't had for a few years - so coming down to the lower leagues will give those guys a chance to develop and flourish."

"This season we've been a very young side up against really wily old heads and I think when it came to the crunch we didn't quite have the fire-power or the nous to win games."

"We also need to start developing a team spirit within the club because, I think it's fair to say, we've struggled with that recently."

"Hopefully we can build something out of the disappointment of our relegation."



George and Grimes set for glitzy fight night

■ continued from back

and it is something we're working on, but it is a natural style and you can't change that.

"It's instinct and he's very hard to hit, which is why we call him 'The Ghost'. It's very true because he ghosts away and he's just not there.

"Ideh Ockuko was a live opponent and normally in a professional's fourth fight you're not going to get a live opponent, but Bobby has learnt all he needs to learn."

"His skill is unbelievable so we don't need to teach him anything and that's why we're giving him live opponents."

Meanwhile, Marsh Farm's Grimes

is hoping to get his professional career back on track after being stopped in the second round by Ockuko in his last outing back in November.

The two-time former ABA champion has lost four of his five bouts since moving up to the paid ranks, but Turner believes he is getting back towards replicating the form shown in his amateur days.

He cited Grimes' first-round stoppage victory over Floyd Moore last July, saying: "In that one minute we saw the old Duane and then the devastating KO that he has got come through."

Duane had some time out of the

gym after being very successful amateur, did some silly weight lifting and we all know that destroys a boxer.

"He's had some unfortunate things in his career, but he is now back on track and over the last month I've seen a great improvement in Duane in the gym."

"He's now getting back to his old self and if we can get him back to where he was you will see a future champion because he really has got all of the attributes."

■ For tickets for the show on May 18, go to: www.shamrockboxingpromotions.com or phone 07938 699457

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FOOTBALL

Ricky's on the Case to hand Rovers win

EVO-STIK DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

BARTON ROVERS 1
DAVENTRY 0

A SECOND-HALF goal from Ricky Case gave Barton a deserved victory yesterday.

Rovers should have taken the lead earlier, having two good chances.

The first was when Luke Knight was one-on-one with their keeper, forcing a good save and the second was when Case almost turned in a far post cross.

But he made up for that on 66 minutes, when he latched on to Bobby Dance's through-ball and then lobbed the keeper to score the winner.

Cooper's red card blights title chase

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

HADLEY 0
DUNSTABLE TOWN 0

TOWN'S title hopes were all but ended after being held to a draw at Hadley.

The result leaves them five points behind leaders Royston Town with three games left to play. And to add to their woes they had a man sent off.

Town had previously beaten the hosts 1-0 in a tight contest earlier in the season and were expecting an equally tough match yesterday.

And it proved to be so with their task being made even harder after Jonathan Cooper's second-half dismissal. Town entertain Hillingdon Borough next.

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

AFC DUNSTABLE 1
COLNEY HEATH 0

AS the season draws to an end, a hard-fought victory saw AFC Dunstable secure third place in the league.

The only goal came after 32 minutes, from Dermot Butler's brilliant overhead kick, assisted by Richard Parker.

AFC could have extended their lead after 63 minutes, but Simon Bullard rattled the crossbar.

Dunstable held on to the narrow lead, a task made easier when Heath had a man sent off with five minutes to play.

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

CHESHAM UNITED RES 1
CRAWLEY GREEN 4

CHRIS Gibson scored a hat-trick as Crawley won comfortably at Chesham.

Andy Reid had put the visitors ahead with a penalty in the first half.

Gibson then demonstrated a lethal touch in front of goal as he scored twice early on in the second half.

Chesham then grabbed a consolation strike before Gibson completed his hat-trick on 90 minutes.

YESTERDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER

Braintree Town	3	1	Luton Town
Darlington	0	0	Grimsby Town
Gateshead FC	2	0	Barrow
Hayes & Yeading Utd	0	0	Cambridge United
Kettering Town	0	3	Mansfield Town
Southport	1	2	Kidderminster Harriers
Stockport County	4	0	Lincoln City FC
York City	0	1	Fleetwood Town

EVO-STIK DIVISION ONE CENTRAL

Barton Rovers	1	0	Daventry Town
Beaconsfield SYCOB	0	1	Ashford Town
Bedfont Town	1	2	Slough Town
Bedworth United	2	1	AFC Hayes
Biggleswade Town	1	3	Northwood
Chalfont St Peter	0	2	Rugby Town
Fleet Town	1	2	Leighton Town
Marlow	0	0	St. Neots Town
North Greenford United	2	1	Burnham
Uxbridge	3	0	Aylesbury
Woodford United	2	1	Chertsey Town

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

AFC Dunstable	1	0	Colney Heath
Berkhamsted	3	1	Leverstock Green
Biggleswade United	4	2	Oxhey Jets
Broxbourne Borough	1	2	Holmer Green
Hadley	0	0	Dunstable Town
Harefield United	1	2	London Tigers
Hertford Town	4	2	Hatfield Town
Royston Town	2	1	Hanwell Town
St Margaret'sbury	0	1	Hillingdon Borough
Tring Athletic	1	0	Stofold

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

Amersham Town	1	4	Amphill Town
Bedford	3	3	St Albans City Reserves
Buckingham Athletic	2	0	Welwyn Garden City
Chesham Utd Reserves	1	4	Crawley Green
Cranfield United	0	2	London Colney
Hoddesdon Town	3	1	London Lions
Kentish Town	0	3	Tokyngton Manor
Kings Langley	2	2	Cockfosters
Langford	2	0	New Bradwell St Peter
Wodson Park	5	1	Stony Stratford Town

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE DIVISION TWO

Caddington	2	2	Bletchley Town
MK Wanderers	4	5	Tring Corinthians
Mursley United	1	1	Aston Clinton
Pitstone & Ivinghoe	2	4	Winslow United
Risborough Rangers	4	1	Kent Athletic
The 61 FC (Luton)	2	3	Hale Leys Utd
Totternhoe	3	0	Old Bradwell United

SOUTH MIDLANDS DIV TWO

TOTTERNHOE won 3-0 at home to Old Bradwell United. Gary Duncan's penalty gave them the lead before two late goals in the second half by Stefan Tracey and Aaron Randall secured the points.

CADDINGTON failed to take control of a game where Bletchley were down to nine men in the closing stages, drawing 2-2, both goals coming from Daniel Flemons.

Elsewhere, **THE 61 FC** lost 2-0 to Hale Leys United, while **KENT ATHLETIC** lost 4-1 away to Risborough Rangers.

James: We've proved naysayers wrong

MOTORSPORT

TEAM principal Chris James of Luton-based Team ES Racing hailed the drive of Dave Newsham as the Scot took a first-ever podium for the outfit to make a strong start to their 2012 Dunlop MSA British Touring Car Championship campaign at Brands Hatch.

"He's now getting back to his old self and if we can get him back to where he was you will see a future champion because he really has got all of the attributes."

■ For tickets for the show on May 18, go to: www.shamrockboxingpromotions.com or phone 07938 699457

we can do as we said pre-season and challenge for podiums and victories. It's a shame Dave's race ended in the gravel trap as it could have been a hat-trick of podiums for the team.

"We've proved the naysayers wrong saying that we haven't got the capabilities of man power and finished on the podium against much stronger competition with bigger more experienced teams."



DELIGHT: Chris James (left) and Dave Newsham

Sport

on sunday

Buckle awaits but Shane says stars take rap for Brabin axe

BY LAUREN ARCHELL
lauren.archell@lutononsunday.com

DEFENDER Shane Blackett said that he is looking forward to playing under new Luton Town manager Paul Buckle, but feels responsible for the departure of ex-boss Gary Brabin.

The Liverpudlian was sacked by the club last Saturday after the side fell out of the Blue Square Bet Premier play-off places following defeat to promotion rivals York.

On Good Friday it was announced that ex-Torquay and Bristol Rovers boss Buckle (*pictured*) would be taking the Hatters hotseat from today, though he was in the stands for yesterday's 3-1 defeat at part-timers Braintree Town, which stretched the their recent dismal run to eight games without a win.

Speaking after the result, Blackett said: "The players let Gary down, the gaffers do all they can but it's

■ continued on page 58



Read Buckle's first interview online later today

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HOT PROSPECTS: Luton boxers Duane Grimes (left) and Bobby George with headliner Matt Skelton (centre)

Turner targets Skelts show as a start of something big

BOXING

MERVYN Turner is aiming to give the best boxing talent in the area the chance to make it in the professional game after announcing the first of what he hopes is many shows for Shamrock Boxing.

Matt Skelton headlines the event at Bedford Corn Exchange on Friday May 18 – his first pro bout in his hometown – while the likes of Luton-based trio Bobby George, Duane Grimes and Marco Stephenson will also be in action.

Turner, who recently unveiled a

partnership with top promoter Dennis Hobson, is now hoping that his Shamrock stable can provide a pathway for promising pugilists to work their way up the ladder.

"We really want to promote boxing in the area," he said. "Everybody goes up to London and fans travel to Liverpool and Manchester, but this area has a rich tradition of boxing."

"It's a very proud tradition, some very good boxers have come from this area, so we want to come back to Bedford again and again to promote local fighters and bring in talent to the

area. These are all good, young and hungry boxers from the area and it's great to see them all on one show."

Former Olympic bronze medalist George is someone who particularly excites Turner and he has so far justified the backing he has been given by winning all his first four paid contests. The 29-year-old Bulgarian eased to a points victory over Ideh Okuko last time out and caught many observers' eyes with his hands-down, switching hitting style.

Turner said: "It is a unique style
■ continued on page 59

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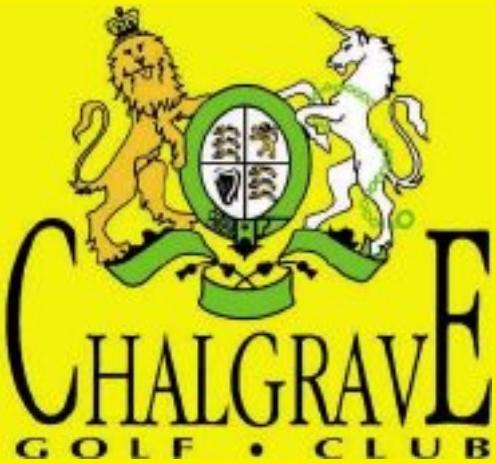
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